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SCENE OF OPERATIONS IN THE GULF---SHIP ISLAND, AND THE APPROACHES TO NEW-ORLEANS AND MOBILE.

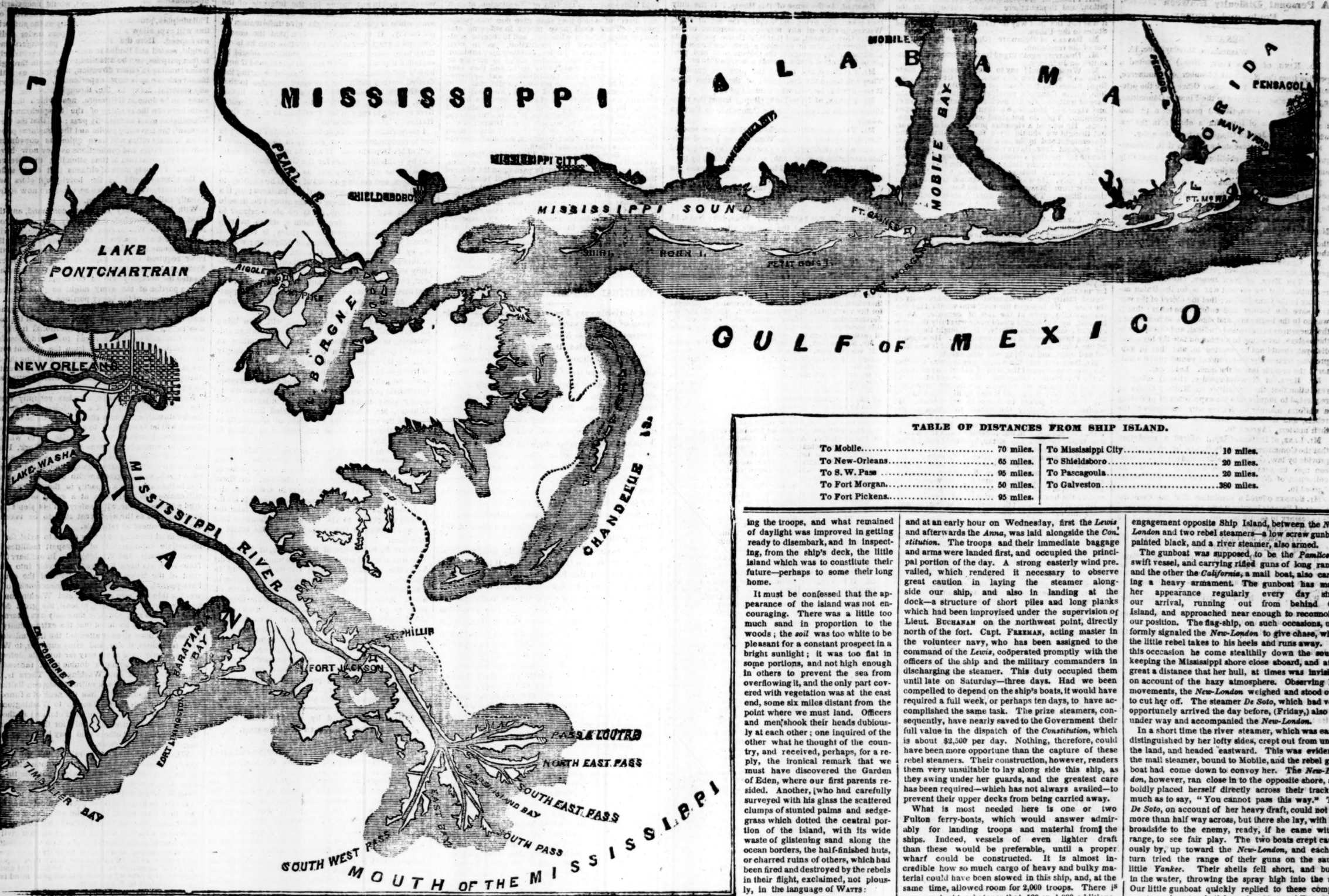

TABLE OF DISTANCES FROM SHIP ISLAND.

To Mobile	70 miles.	To Mississippi City	10 miles.
To New-Orleans	65 miles.	To Shieldsboro	20 miles.
To S. W. Pass	95 miles.	To Pascagoula	20 miles.
To Fort Morgan	50 miles.	To Galveston	380 miles.
To Fort Pickens	95 miles.		

THE EXPEDITION TO THE GULF.

Trip of the Constitution to Ship Island.

ARRIVAL AND LANDING OF THE TROOPS.

Proclamation of Brig.-Gen. Phelps to the Loyal Citizens of the Southwest.

Situation of the Island and its Defences.

Capture of Rebel Steamers---Contrabands Coming Over.

A Naval Engagement at Long Range---Rebel Prisoners, &c.

SHIP ISLAND, MISSISSIPPI SOUND, Sunday, Dec. 8, 1861.

My last letter announced the arrival of the *Constitution* at Fortress Monroe, where we called for final orders on Tuesday, Nov. 26. At this place Brig.-Gen. PHELPS was placed in command of the expedition, by orders from the War Department; and after coaling, we weighed anchor and proceeded on our voyage Wednesday afternoon. At 5 o'clock P. M., having discharged Mr. DENNISON, the courteous pilot who assisted to take us inward, we took our departure from Cape Henry, whose darkened light-house stands out so fitting a monument of the benighted spirits who rule the destinies of the unhappy Old Dominion.

We passed Cape Hatteras long before daylight, and the sun of Thursday morning never, perhaps, rose upon a more tranquil sea. Not a breath of air ruffled the surface of the ocean. We found ourselves gliding swiftly along the western edge of the Gulf Stream, as unconscious of motion as if we had been steaming up the Hudson. The troops, who had hitherto stuck tenaciously to their warm overcoats, now threw them aside, and the decks were alive with blue jackets instead of the long grey coats. The ladies promenaded the guards as steadily as if they had been walking in their own parlors, sea-sickness was forgotten, and good digestion once more waited on appetite.

Friday we passed Charleston, and Saturday Port Royal and Savannah, without seeing a single sail until late on Saturday, when a ship stood off from the shore under easy canvas, and after surveying us for a short time tacked and stood in again.

Up to this time our destination was known only to a few, and many supposed we were going to Port Royal. During Saturday we were running along in sight of the Florida Coast, with a continuation of the same faultless weather and smooth sea.

From the sharp, frosty atmosphere of Winter, we had, almost insensibly, passed into the genial warmth of midsummer, and with the temperature at 80°, and thin clothing in general request, it was difficult to believe that some mistake had not occurred in the date, December being written for June. The warm saloon was abandoned for the promenade deck and the most breezy parts of the ship. The passengers, male and female, beguiled the time in promenading during the day, and at evening in watching the gorgeous sunsets, and listening to the music of the bands on the upper decks.

Gen. PHELPS, immediately on assuming command, introduced the routine of the camp. Reveille waked the soldiers at daylight; the men were all called up and an inspection took place; the quarters were cleaned; there was regular guard-mounting for the day; guards were stationed at all the important parts of the ship; the soldiers passed up one stairway and down the other, thus avoiding the old confusion, jostling and delay,—in a word, order had been brought out of comparative chaos. Much of this, however, was due to the prevalence of fine weather, and to the continued improvement in the sanitary condition of the men. A heavy labor devolved upon the officers who came first on board, and they accomplished much, considering the circumstances. The General seemed to have a remarkably quiet way of carrying out his reforms, everything being done with the least possible display of parade. He walked about the ship like some Vermont farmer on a Sunday morning, to see if the fences are down. His unostentatious manner among officers and men, inspired respect and good feeling, and the slightest order was promptly and cheerfully obeyed. The General, as is known, was a graduate of West Point, and entered the army quite young. He went through the Florida and Mexican Wars with credit, and was also in the Utah campaign. With excellent opportunities for judging of Southern institutions by a long residence in the South and Southwest, he seems strangely averse to the institution of Slavery, and declares the system, from beginning to end, dehumanizing and barbarous on the country, the master and the slave.

DESTINATION OF THE TROOPS.

The country has, no doubt, already been advised of the particular destination of the present expedition, and of the objects of it, through the Press.

The two regiments on board the *Constitution*, we are told, constitute the vanguard of a large military force which is to congregate at Ship Island, and in the vicinity. An extensive dépôt of munitions and supplies will be established, a camp of instruction set up, and arrangements completed for making a descent on some one of the strongholds of the rebels, in connection with the navy, which is also to be largely augmented for the purpose. We are thus to have *a base of operations*, from which expeditions can be set on foot to any desired point, from which all manner of supplies can be drawn as they may be needed, and to which, in the event of disaster of any kind overtaking them, the army can retreat in safety to repair damages, and take a fresh start.

Ship Island, the particular spot selected for this purpose, is one of a series of small islands which have been formed by the action of the ocean, and which constitute the southern boundary of Mississippi Sound. It is seven miles long, according to the chart, having an area of between two and three square miles, with an abundance of good water, and covered, on its eastern end, with a robust growth of timber. It is within sixty-five miles of New-Orleans, and seventy of Mobile, by the navigable route—near enough to b within good striking distance, when all things are in readiness for making a forward movement.

A COTTON PORT TO BE OPENED.

The harbor facilities for anchoring a large fleet within easy distance, by steamer, of the southern shores of Mississippi and Louisiana, it is believed, will suggest to the military commander the feasibility of opening up a port for the exportation of cotton from Ship Island harbor. The anchorage for ships is every way superior to the lower bar of Mobile Bay, and there is twice the depth of water, with no obstructions in entering and leaving port, as is the case at Mobile bar. With a dépôt at Mississippi City or Biloxi, cargoes would be within ten or twelve miles of the ships, instead of twenty-five, as at Mobile.

I have had prepared a chart of all the islands contained in the group, with their relative positions, and the distance of Ship Island from Mobile, New-Orleans, Fort Morgan, and other localities.

Much curiosity existed among the officers and men as to the nature of the location to which they were bound, and no little anxiety to know whether our fleet still held possession.

On Tuesday, about noon, we made the Chandeleur Islands right ahead, and shortly afterward discovered land on the starboard bow. This, with its woody groves on the eastern end, proved to be Ship Island. Shortly afterward the light-house and fort on the west end, and the masts of sailing vessels and steamers lying at anchor in the harbor, were visible. The ship's ensign, a large flag, was hoisted aft, and the jack run up at the fore for a pilot. Soon we saw a large steamer get under way and move out of the harbor to meet us. As yet we were unable to distinguish the character of the flag whose dim outlines were but just visible flying on the fort, or that which was displayed by the approaching steamer. There was a brief moment of suspense, during which a dozen glasses were directed to the fort, and all eyes were eagerly strained to catch a view of the symbols of the flag, half concealed half disclosed by the light breeze which prevailed. In another moment a gust of wind straightened out the bunting, and as the stars on the old flag glimmered plainly out, a chorus of cheers was heard fore-and-aft of our ship, like the sound of many waters. By this time the United States steamer *R. R. Cuyler* had come almost within hailing distance, and the brave tars who thronged her decks and lined the rigging, broke out into one glad, welcoming cheer. Lieut. PARKER soon came on board, and piloted the ship safely inside the point. The two big guns on the *Constitution* announced her arrival as the anchors were let go; the marines on board the flag-ship *Massachusetts*, on the gunboat *New-London*, and from the parapets of the fort, gave forth another hoarse welcome, whose sounds must have wakened prolonged echoes among the pine forests of Mississippi. Our troops responded again and again to their cheers; flags were dipped, and other evidences of congratulation exchanged among the fleet. It was a fitting reception for the finest ship and the largest ship's company which had ever anchored in Southern waters.

The officers of the various United States vessels in the harbor came on board; letters and papers were delivered, and an interesting hour was passed in asking and answering questions touching the position of affairs in this part of the Gulf. Our coming was evidently as welcome to the fleet as it was sudden and unexpected, and many questions were asked as to the number of troops we had brought, and of those who were to follow; the plans of the new campaign, &c. These, it is presumed, were fully answered by Gen. PHELPS, when Commander SMITH and his associate officers came on board and paid their respects to him in the evening.

The day was too far advanced to commence landing the troops, and what remained of daylight was improved in getting ready to disembark, and in inspecting, from the ship's deck, the little island which was to constitute their future—perhaps to some their long home.

It must be confessed that the appearance of the island was not encouraging. There was a little too much sand in proportion to the woods; the *soil* was too white to be pleasant for a constant prospect in a bright sunlight; it was too flat in some portions, and not high enough in others to prevent the sea from overflowing it, and the only part covered with vegetation was at the east end, some six miles distant from the point where we must land. Officers and men shook their heads dubiously at each other; one inquired of the other what he thought of the country, and received, perhaps, for a reply, the ironical remark that we must have discovered the Garden of Eden, where our first parents resided. Another, who had carefully surveyed with his glass the scattered clumps of stunted palms and sedge-grass which dotted the central portion of the island, with its wide waste of glistening sand along the ocean borders, the half-finished huts, or charred ruins of others, which had been fired and destroyed by the rebels in their flight, exclaimed, not piously, in the language of WATTS:

"Lord, what a wretched land is this,
Which yields us no supplies."

A quiet night's rest in the still waters of the Sound; a cheerful ocean sunrise, which irradiated the forests at the east end, and a closer inspection of the locality in the morning, did much to remove these first unfavorable impressions.

The climate, in the first place, was delicious, being neither too hot nor too cold, and very nearly resembling a June temperature in New-England. There was no need of overcoats, except at night, and thin clothing was decidedly preferable in the daytime. The water they found to be just of that temperature which would render bathing a real luxury—a sanitary proceeding which it is no disparagement to the men to say they very much needed. The shore was shelving along the whole north side of the island, on whose hard, white sand, a person might venture a quarter of a mile from the land with impunity; and the bay, except during the prevalence of a norther, is as quiet as a Summer lake. Oysters of the finest flavor and quality, and as large as a man's hand, are abundant, and can easily be obtained by wading in and gathering them. Fish of the finest variety are also very abundant. By the use of a seine any quantity of mullet, sheepshead and other palatable fish, can be caught for the use of the troops—an employment which would be an agreeable pastime for the men. In the pine woods, which cover more than one-half the area of the island, raccoons abound in considerable numbers, and furnish exciting sport to the hunters. One party brought in eight or ten the first afternoon they landed.

The great feature of the island, however, is the abundance and purity of its water. In any part where it is not overflowed, at a distance of twenty feet from the shore, good fresh water can be obtained by digging only a couple of feet below the surface. The rain water, which falls here, according to meteorological statistics, to the amount of many millions of gallons yearly, is held in the soil and furnishes an inexhaustible supply for any number of population. The pine forests, to say nothing of the thousands of cords of drift wood, which is driven over from the opposite shore, furnishes abundance of fuel for cooking purposes, and for such rare occasions as that article may be needed for warmth. Lumber of the Southern pine is to be had in any quantity on the neighboring shores of Mississippi and Louisiana, for building purposes, for wharves and other uses.

Thus nature seems to have compensated for the otherwise sterile condition of the island. There is sufficient herbage on the island to support a few cattle—of the Southern stripe—though it is hoped that decent, well-bred cattle sent here from the North may not be required to subsist wholly on it, until they are somewhat accustomed to the diet, as it might injure their constitutions. There were several cattle resembling Pharaoh's lean kine left in a corral when the rebels ran away. On being released from their confinement they took to the woods, and great difficulty has since been experienced in finding them, as they are *said* to be wholly invisible, with the exception of their horns, when looking toward them. Indeed, a naval officer informed me that he obtained a very good observation of the sun through one of them the other day, but I do not vouch for the truth of *that* yarn.

LANDING OF THE TROOPS.

By a piece of good fortune, or rather of enterprise on the part of the officers of the fleet here, two rebel steamers of large size had been captured only a short time before our arrival—the *Henry Lewis* and *Anna*, which were found almost indispensable in landing the troops and in discharging the large quantity of material belonging to them. These steamers were immediately called in requisition, steam was got up, and at an early hour on Wednesday, first the *Lewis*, and afterwards the *Anna*, was laid alongside the *Constitution*. The troops and their immediate baggage and arms were landed first, and occupied the principal portion of the day. A strong easterly wind prevailed, which rendered it necessary to observe great caution in laying the steamer alongside our ship, and also in landing at the dock—a structure of short piles and long planks which had been improvised under the supervision of Lieut. BUCHANAN on the northwest point, directly north of the fort. Capt. FREEMAN, acting master in the volunteer navy, who has been assigned to the command of the *Lewis*, coöperated promptly with the officers of the ship and the military commanders in discharging the steamer. This duty occupied them until late on Saturday—three days. Had we been compelled to depend on the ship's boats, it would have required a full week, or perhaps ten days, to have accomplished the same task. The prize steamers, consequently, have nearly saved to the Government their full value in the dispatch of the *Constitution*, which is about $2,500 per day. Nothing, therefore, could have been more opportune than the capture of these rebel steamers. Their construction, however, renders them very unsuitable to lay along side this ship, as they swing under her guards, and the greatest care has been required—which has not always availed—to prevent their upper decks from being carried away.

What is most needed here is one or two Fulton ferry-boats, which would answer admirably for landing troops and material from the ships. Indeed, vessels of even lighter draft than these would be preferable, until a proper wharf could be constructed. It is almost incredible how so much cargo of heavy and bulky material could have been stowed in this ship, and, at the same time, allowed room for 2,000 troops. There is now no doubt whatever that 500 or 1,000 additional men could have been landed on Ship Island by the *Constitution* had a proper attention been paid to the quantity of the material *required for the subsistence of the troops, and its stowage on board.*

THE DEFENCES OF THE ISLAND.

The fort, which is located on the extreme west end, commands the approach to the harbor, and generally all the north side of the island is within range of its guns. It mounts 20 guns, and nearly all of the casemates are at present shell-proof. The main structure is of brick, the casemates being overlaid first with yellow pine timber of massive strength, then covered with heavy plank of the same material, and finally piled up with bags of sand, to render them impervious to shot or shell. It has also supporting batteries on the outside, at different angles of the fort, which, with their heavy 9-inch shell guns, sweep all important points of the channel. These, with the presence of the gunboats, which keep vigilant watch over the movements of the enemy in the Sound, makes the island secure against surprise.

The vessels chiefly relied upon for the latter duty, are the flag-ship *Massachusetts* and the *New-London*. The latter, however, has shown herself a much more serviceable vessel, on account of her lighter draft of water, and greater celerity of movement in pursuing the enemy. She has been on the station less than a month, and has already made the following prizes:

Nov. 21—Schooner *Olive*, loaded with lumber.

Nov. 22—Steamer *Anna*, with a valuable cargo of spirits turpentine and resin.

Nov. 28—Steamer *Henry Lewis*, with a cargo of molasses and sugar. Same date, schooner *A. J. Vien*, with tar, pitch and turpentine.

Dec. 1—Fishing smack *Advocate*.

In these captures, GEORGE WIGGINS, from Fort Massachusetts, rendered valuable aid as pilot. Lieut. READ, commanding this lively and efficient little cruiser, has been indefatigable since he has been on the station, as the foregoing record fully testifies. His Acting Masters and other officers, have also coöperated zealously in the good work.

TRADE STOPPED THROUGH THE SOUND.

Startled by these proofs of activity on the part of the blockading fleet, the rebels have become more cautious, and the traffic between New-Orleans and Mobile, through this sound, has been pretty much stopped. The presence of two other gunboats, with even a lighter draft of water than the *New-London*, are greatly needed, as the *Massachusetts* draws too much water to follow the rebel gunboats and steamers into their shoal-water retreats, where they invariably take refuge on being pursued. She is also unable to move through the water with any speed, on account of the long grass and barnacles which have accumulated on her iron bottom during her protracted stay in these waters. She ought to be replaced by a more serviceable vessel at once, and sent home to repair. Her decks were also rendered leaky by the heavy shot which she received during her remarkable engagement with the gunboat *Florida*, on the 19th of October.

THE REBEL GUNBOATS.

The armed gunboats of the rebels, and their mail steamers between New-Orleans and Mobile, do not yet give up whipped, and continue to slip by when a favorable opportunity offers. On the 4th of November, the day before our arrival, while the gunboat *R. R. Cuyler* had gone to Horn Island Pass to watch the movements of a schooner which was about to run the blockade, and the *New-London* was also absent on important duty, five rebel steamers, convoying as many vessels, came down from New-Orleans, and passed by with impunity. The old *Massachusetts*, meantime, lay helplessly at her anchors for reasons I have already given.

A NAVAL ENGAGEMENT ON THE SOUND.

On Saturday we had a view of quite a little naval engagement opposite Ship Island, between the *New-London* and two rebel steamers—a low screw gunboat painted black, and a river steamer, also armed.

The gunboat was supposed to be the *Pamlico*, a swift vessel, and carrying rifled guns of long range, and the other the *California*, a mail boat, also carrying a heavy armament. The gunboat has made her appearance regularly every day since our arrival, running out from behind Cat Island, and approached near enough to reconnoitre our position. The flag-ship, on such occasions, uniformly signaled the *New-London* to give chase, when the little rebel takes to his heels and runs away. On this occasion he come stealthily down the sound, keeping the Mississippi shore close aboard, and at so great a distance that her hull, at times was invisible on account of the hazy atmosphere. Observing her movements, the *New-London* weighed and stood over to cut her off. The steamer *De Soto*, which had very opportunely arrived the day before, (Friday,) also got under way and accompanied the *New-London*.

In a short time the river steamer, which was easily distinguished by her lofty sides, crept out from under the land, and headed eastward. This was evidently the mail steamer, bound to Mobile, and the rebel gunboat had come down to convoy her. The *New-London*, however, ran close in to the opposite shore, and boldly placed herself directly across their track, as much as to say, "You cannot pass this way." The *De Soto*, on account of her heavy draft, could not go more than half way across, but there she lay, with her broadside to the enemy, ready, if he came within range, to see fair play. The two boats crept cautiously by, up toward the *New-London*, and each in turn tried the range of their guns on the saucy little *Yankee*. Their shells fell short, and burst in the water, throwing the spray high into the air. Our little gunboat quickly replied to these compliments, and sent a shell from her 30-pound Parrott on her forecastle, but this also fell somewhat short. After half a dozen shots exchanged in the same way, the *New-London* each time giving them as good as they sent, with evident advantage in range, the large boat ran back and held a consultation with her convoy, which occupied half an hour. During this time our steamers maintained their respective positions. It was very evident that the rebels did not like the appearance of the *De Soto's* big barking iron which looked so defiantly at them from her forecastle. They could not draw his fire, and they preferred not to venture too near. The *New-London* having driven them back, took her way down the Mississippi shore to reconnoitre, and before the result of the engagement could be known, the *Constitution* weighed and went to sea. While the fight continued the people on shore lined the parapets of the fort, and those on the vessels at anchor in the roads were all eagerly watching the contest.

The *Montgomery* on Friday was attacked by three or four rebel gunboats, near Horn Island Pass, and *finding their guns of superior range*, she was compelled to beat a retreat. She came up to Ship Island and reported the particulars of the affair the same day, and then returned to her cruising ground.

The recital of these facts, it is presumed, will suggest to the Navy Department the urgent necessity which exists here for a further supply of *smaller* boats and *larger* guns. As there is no railroad communication between Mobile and New-Orleans, the closing of this rebel thoroughfare between these two important points becomes a matter of prime importance. Nothing that could be done will so effectually damage the rebel cause in the South.

LOCATION OF THE TROOPS.

The 26th Massachusetts located their camp a little to the eastward of the Light House, their tents being pitched in regular order East and West. The Connecticut 9th selected their ground just to the South of them, where their encampment is also regularly laid out. The tents are all of the Fremont pattern, each having a sheet iron stove for baking and other cooking purposes in it, the stove pipe, which is of galvanized iron, serving as the centre poll to support the tent. There is an arrangement at the top for ventilation.

Capt. MANNING'S Company of Light Artillery is encamped directly east of, and under the walls of the fort. This location is handiest for them, as they will commence at once to drill at the heavy gun in the casemates and batteries. As soon as they have learned the manual of these guns, the one hundred and sixty marines who are now in charge of the fort will be withdrawn and sent on board of the war vessels where their services are much needed. They have, with their officers, rendered a very important service to the Government in holding the place until it could be occupied by our troops. In this duty, Lieut. J. MCKEAN BUCHANAN, who is in charge, has been indefatigable in his efforts for the protection of the place, and in strengthening the position against attack. He has also received valuable coöperation from his associate officers.

EXAMINATION OF THE ISLAND.

On Friday, Gen. PHELPS made a reconnoissance of the east end of the island, accompanied by Capt. FLETCHER and your correspondent. Capt. READ conveyed us in his gunboat, the *New-London*, and after taking a survey of the land and its formation on the northeast side, we returned a short distance and anchored half a mile from the shore on the northwest side. The party, including some of the steamer's officers, were then set on shore near the lagoon. Considerable difficulty was experienced in landing on account of the shoal water. That portion of the island

[*Continued on Eighth Page.*]

THE PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS.

A Proposition to Expel Senator Bright, of Indiana.

Debate on the Suspension of the Writ of Habeas Corpus.

Resolutions Relative to the Trent Affair Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Relations.

A Personal Difficulty Between Messrs. Fouke and Conway.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Monday, Dec. 16.

Mr. KING, of New-York, (Rep.,) presented a petition from the New-York Chamber of Commerce, asking that the New-York Assay Office have the privilege of coining. Referred to the Finance Committee.

Mr. GRIMES, of Iowa, (Rep.,) presented a petition from the citizens of Iowa for a change in the law which excludes Jewish Chaplains from the army.

Mr. GRIMES also presented a petition that, in consequence of the present rebellion, Slavery be absolutely and unconditionally abolished.

Mr. SUMNER, of Massachusetts, (Rep.,) presented several petitions, asking that the slaves of the rebels be emancipated.

Mr. SUMNER also presented a petition from the Mayor of Boston, and others, asking for a repeal of the law in respect to Jewish chaplains. Referred to the Military Committee.

Mr. CHANDLER, of Michigan, (Rep.,) presented a petition for an exchange of prisoners.

Mr. TEN EYCK, of New-Jersey, (Rep.,) offered a resolution, that the present war is for the Union according to the Constitution; that the object of the war is to save the former and enforce the latter; that it was so in the beginning, and should be so to the last; that measures extreme and radical, and disruptive in themselves, involving in a common fate the loyal and disloyal, should not be resorted to, and that in suppressing treason the Government cannot prove a traitor to the organic law of the land. Laid over.

Mr. HALE, of New-Hampshire, (Rep.,) offered a resolution that the Committee on Military Affairs be requested to inquire into the expediency of providing a uniform manner for dealing with the slaves of the rebels, and those made prisoners or escaping from their masters, Agreed to.

Mr. LANE, of Indiana, (Rep.,) offered a resolution that the Committee on the Judiciary be requested to provide by law, so that the aiders and abettors of treason may be prevented from bringing suits for the collection of debts in the courts of the United States Agreed to.

Mr. SUMNER offered a resolution that the Commissioner of Patents inquire if any additional legislation is necessary to secure persons of African descent the right to take out patents. Agreed to.

Mr. WILKINSON, of Minnesota, (Rep.,) offered the following preamble and resolution:

Whereas, JESSE D. BRIGHT, Senator from Indiana, did, on the 1st of March last, write a letter to JEFFERSON DAVIS—[a letter was here read introducing a Mr. LINCOLN to Mr. DAVIS, as having an improvement in fire-arms;] and

Whereas, Such letter is evidence of disloyalty; therefore,

Resolved, That JESSE D. BRIGHT be expelled from the Senate of the United States.

Mr. COWAN, of Pennsylvania, (Rep.,) moved the reference of the subject to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. BRIGHT, of Indiana, (Opp.,) rose and said: Perhaps it was not improper to say a few words as to the truth of the charges making against him through a licentious Press. It had been charged that he had absented himself from the Senate from fear of such a resolution as had just been offered. It was not so. He had been confined to his room by illness. He had no objection to the resolution. He believed that in a service of seventeen years he had done nothing inconsistent with his duty as an American Senator, as a citizen, or as a gentleman. He courted an investigation into all his acts, both public and private.

Mr. BRIGHT then asked to have a letter read, which was an answer to the one already read.

The letter was read. It was to Mr. FITCH, saying that he (BRIGHT) was opposed to the Abolitionists, but had always been for the preservation and integrity of the Union; also, that he was opposed to the coercive policy of the Government.

The resolution expelling Mr. BRIGHT was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. SUMNER gave notice that he should introduce a bill to satisfy claims for French spoliations.

A communication was received from the Marshal of the District, in reply to the resolution heretofore adopted in regard to slaves confined in the jail. The Marshal said the slaves have been so confined in consequence of old and uniform custom here, which he supposed according to law, but had not made investigation of the subject.

A communication was received from the President, transmitting the proceedings of the Court of Inquiry in the case of Col. MILES. It was referred to the Special Committee.

Mr. TRUMBULL, of Illinois, (Rep.) called up the resolution, asking the Secretary of State if persons had been arrested in the loyal States, and by what authority.

Mr. DIXON, of Conn., (Rep.,) opposed the resolution. He thought it best not to go into such questions in times like these, when the very safety of the country is threatened. The time had passed by when this abominable rebellion could be crushed by mild means. He would make no discrimination between the property of rebels. A great deal has been said about the opinions of conservative men. He had occasion to know something about such opinions, and knew them. He was for using any means for the suppression of the rebellion.

Mr. TRUMBULL said he was as eager as any one to crush rebellion. He would not waste the powers of the Government in arresting persons in the loyal States, but would strike with the power of six hundred thousand men, and crush the rebellion to earth. It seemed the very essence of despotism if men could be arrested by telegraph without power to reply or to have a trial. What becomes of constitutional liberty? Are you willing to trust the liberties of citizens in the hands of any one man, no matter who? The people are engaged in the defence of constitutional liberty and the Constitution as our fathers made it. That Constitution is broad enough without any violation of it. He thought no harm could come out of the resolution. If the reply of the Secretary showed that arrests had been made, and there was no authority for them, but that they were still necessary, would it not be better to make a law to effect the like result?

Mr. DIXON said the resolution seemed to question the propriety of acts of a department of the Government, but he would not make such a question at the present time. He denied that there had been any usurpation or despotism. There had been exercised extraordinary power from necessity. The most dangerous men now were those men in the North who are trying to convince the people that nobody ought to be disturbed at the North. If any fault had been committed, it has been the fault of too much leniency.

Mr. WILSON, of Massachusetts, (Rep.,) was sorry the Senator from Illinois had introduced such a resolution. The Senator knows that the Secretary of State made the arrests by order of the President of the United States. If the Senator did not like the orders of the President, why not bring in a bill to clothe the President with all proper authority. The Government, by the execution of this authority, saved the country in the dark hour of gloom, when treason talked abroad in Washington, and so was saved the State of Maryland. There were traitorous men all over the North, who expressed sympathy with traitors. Then the President, through the Secretary of State, had these prisoners arrested, and the turning of the doors of Fort Lafayette silenced innumerable traitors in the loyal States. Nine hundred and ninety-nine out of every thousand men applauded and thanked the Government for this action. Why, then, come into the Senate and blame the Government for thus saving the country? For, he declared that it had done more in this way to save the country, than had the whole military force to this hour. The Government had been quite too lenient, and it was time that more vigorous and determined action was had.

Mr. HALE, of New-Hampshire, (Rep.,) thought the resolution eminently proper and appropriate, and should feel mortified if it was not passed. Our fathers fought for principle, for constitutional liberty, regulated by law, and not for mere independence. The Government had better fail than be faithless to that great principle. He wanted to strengthen the hands of the Government, but he wanted them to stretch their vigilance across the Potomac South instead of North. If the people, now pouring out their blood and treasure, find they have been trifled with, and that imbecility has stood in the place of courage in a vigorous prosecution of the war, then there will be such a storm come upon their heads, such as history has never recorded, and with no great degree of faith we might even now hear the rumblings of the coming storm. The people he represented will support the Government in a vigorous prosecution of the war, and woe to those who do not understand the day and the hour and the crisis of destiny.

Mr. KENNEDY, of Maryland, (Union,) was glad the resolution had been offered. He had always claimed that Maryland was true to the Constitution. He had never in any way said or done anything in violation of the oath he had taken to support the Government. But if he thought the Government was going he claimed the right to raise his voice against it. He stood here as a friend and supporter of the Government, believing it had ample power to support itself under the Constitution.

Mr. DOOLITTLE, of Wisconsin, (Rep.,) moved that the resolution be referred to the Committe on the Judiciary.

Mr. TRUMBULL hoped not. He wanted to know if we were not fighting for the principles of Constitutional liberty.

Mr. PIERCE, of Maryland, (Opp.,) favored the resolution, and thought there was no authority for the Secretary of State making such arrests. He thought it was not the best way of trying to bring back the States to the Union.

Mr. BAYARD, of Delaware, (Opp.,) also spoke in favor of the resolution.

Mr. DOOLITTLE again urged its reference to the Committee on Judiciary.

Mr. WILSON would say to the Secretary of State "Go on," and when any man plots treason in the loyal States lay the hand of the Government upon him, unless Congress provides a better way to take care of traitors. He did not know when more power and vigor had been shown than in these, who wage rebellion. They do not stand on constitutional questions. He was for a vigorous prosecution of the war, but thought we should have faith and trust in the Government and in the men intrusted to lead armies. He thought JEFF. DAVIS would thank the American Senate for passing a resolution carrying with it implied censure on any Department of the Government.

Mr. TRUMBULL insisted that it was a resolution of inquiry only. He was as much against traitors as the Senator from Massachusetts, and also for constitutional liberty. The Senator from Massachusetts was against traitors and against the Constitution of the country.

Mr. LATHAM, of Cal., (Opp.) could see no necessity for trampling on the Constitution in order to sustain it. Let treason be punished by law, and if men must be arrested, let them be arrested according to law.

Mr. FESSENDEN, of Maine, (Rep.,) thought it seemed to be an issue without any necessity; that was the censure of the Secretary of State. The Senator from Illinois declares that there is no intention to censure anybody; undoubtedly there was no warrant of law for making the arrests as have been made, but he would justify the Government from the necessity of the case. He honored the man who would take the responsibility, even at the risk of censure. As to himself, he yet would guard more carefully the principle of constitutional liberty. He thought there was nothing to be afraid of in the resolution. He supported the Administration, because he thought it was honest and open, and nothing was concealed.

Mr. DOOLITTLE said the whole question was whether the power to suspend the writ of *habeas corpus* rested in the President or Congress. We are not merely at war in the States where there are hostile forces, but at war in every State, and it may be necessary to give the President power to arrest in every State. He wanted the Judiciary Committee to examine the question carefully, and see where the power of suspension of the *habeas corpus* really is at this hour, when the enemy is in our presence; and the Executive raised the sword to strike, he would not say one word to weaken its blow.

Mr. BROWNING, of Illinois, (Rep.,) thought the discussion the same as was forced upon us at the last session by the Senator from Kentucky, (BRECKINRIDGE,) and had no doubt if that Senator was here he would support the resolution, and its passage would rejoice the heart of every traitor in the country.

He could not support the resolution at first, because it was the most inopportune time, when every energy was taxed, and when, perhaps, we are on the eve of a rupture with one of the most powerful nations in the world. The passage of the resolution would carry the impression of an attack on the Executive Department of the Government. Who has been arrested that ought not to have been arrested? Suppose one of the leaders of the rebellion happened to be in a loyal State and trying to get back, would not the Senator from Maine have him arrested?

Mr. FESSENDEN said he would arrest him anywhere. He would go further and thank the man who would take the responsibility on himself, and make the arrest, and would justify such action.

Mr. BROWNING contended that for the time being the Executive must be the judge of necessity, and must exercise the power. Let us fight against the rebels and not against any other Department of the Government.

Mr. PEARCE asked if Mr. FAULKNER was charged with any treasonable acts. He understood that he was arrested as a sort of hostage.

Mr. BROWNING did not know, but had perfect confidence in the Administration that the arrest was properly made.

Mr. WILSON thought the Government had positive evidence that Mr. FAULKNER, while at Paris, was in receipt of correspondence from men engaged in the rebellion.

Mr. TRUMBULL rejoined at some length, contending that there was no purpose of attacking any department of the Government.

The resolution was then referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

YEAS—Anthony, Browning, Chandler, Clark, Collamer, Cowdin, Dixon, Doolittle, Fessenden, Foote, Foster, Harris, Howe, Johnson, of Tennessee, King, Lane, of Indiana, Morrill, Pomeroy, Rice, Sherman, Simmons, Sumner, Ten Eyck, Wade, Wilson—25.

NAYS—Bayard, Bright, Carlisle, Grimes, Hale, Harlan, Kennedy, Latham, McDougall, Nesmith, Pearce, Powell, Saulsbury, Thompson, Trumbull, Wilkinson, Wiley—17.

Mr. HOWE, of Wisconsin, (Rep.,) offered a resolution that a committee be appointed to inquire into the circumstances of the escape of the *Sumter* from Port Royal, Martinique, which was agreed to.

After an executive session the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WASHINGTON, Monday, Dec. 16.

The Speaker presented the memorial of the Legislative Assembly of Colorado asking for the establishment of a branch Mint in that Territory. Referred to the Committee of Ways and Means.

Mr CONWAY, of Kansas, (Rep.,) rising to a question of privilege, alluded to a dialogue between himself and Mr. FOUKE, on Thursday. The former had included the battle of Belmont as in the series of defeats to our arms. Mr. FOUKE had ineffectually asked Mr. HARDING, who had the floor to yield to him, that he might in his own language nail the falsehood to the counter. Mr. CONWAY had explained that he obtained his information from the newspapers. Mr. CONWAY, as he did not at that time hear of offensive remarks with distinctness, now desired to know whether Mr. FOUKE intended to make the charge of falsehood personally applicable to him.

Mr. FOUKE, of Illinois, (Dem.,) replied, that he never heard of any newspaper paragraph to that effect, except in the Chicago *Tribune*, which was afterward contradicted. He then made a brief statement of the battle of Belmont, to show that it was a victory to the National troops, concluding by saying that it was unkind in Mr. CONWAY to insist on characterizing it as a defeat. He would permit the gentleman to make the application of the language he had heretofore uttered, as he (CONWAY,) was the only judge in the matter.

Mr. CONWAY, replying, said that Mr. FOUKE had refused to avail himself of his generosity. He submitted to the candid judgment of the House whether such conduct did not clearly manifest a deliberate purpose to bring on a personal collision without cause, and whether such conduct was not only unworthy of a member of this House, but characteristic rather of a blackguard and scoundrel. (Sensation.)

Mr. RICHARDSON, of Illinois, (Dem.,) immediately called the gentleman to order. This was not the place to settle such difficulties. (Cries of "order."

Mr. FOUKE wanted to say one word in reply.

Mr. STEVENS, of Pennsylvania, (Rep.,) and others objected. They had had enough of such things.

The Speaker informed Mr. FOUKE that no debate was in order.

Mr. FOUKE, amid cries of "order," was understood to say that Mr. CONWAY was a disgrace to the nation and humanity.

There the matter ended in the House.

Among the bills introduced and referred was one by Mr. MORRILL (Vermont) donating land to the several States for the founding of agricultural colleges.

The House passed a bill to strike from the pension roll the names of all persons who have taken up arms against the Government, or in any manner aided the rebellion.

Mr. GRANGER, of Michigan, (Rep.,) introduced a bill for the relief of the Union soldiers now prisoners in Richmond and elsewhere in the rebel States. A letter was read, at his instance, from one of the prisoners, showing their destitution.

Mr. WICKLIFFE, of Kentucky, (Union) stated that the Quartermaster's Department had promptly met their necessities, by sending to the South two thousand full suits of clothing.

The bill was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. CRADLEBAUGH, of Nevada, (Rep.) introduced a bill to establish a branch mint in the Territory of Nevada. Referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. VALLANDIGHAM, of Ohio, (Opp.,) introduced the following preamble and resolution:

Whereas, The Secretary of the Navy has reported to this House that Capt. CHARLES WILKES, in command of the *San Jacinto*, an armed public vessel of the United States, did, on the 8th of November, 1861, on the high seas, intercept the *Trent*, a British mail steamer, and forcibly remove therefrom JAMES M. MASON and JOHN SLIDELL, disloyal citizens, leading conspirators, rebel enemies and dangerous men, who, with their suite, were on their way to Europe to promote the cause of the insurrection, claiming to be Ambassadors from the seceded Confederate States, and

Whereas, The Secretary of the Navy has further reported to this House that the prompt and decisive action of Capt. WILKES, on this occasion, merited and received the emphatic approval of the Department, and, moreover, in a public letter, has thanked Capt. WILKES for the act; and,

Whereas, This House, on the first day of the session, did propose to tender the thanks of Congress to Capt. WILKES, for his brave, adroit and patriotic conduct, in the arrest of the traitors JAMES M. MASON and JOHN SLIDELL; and,

Whereas, Further, on the same day, this House did request the President to confine the said JAMES M. MASON and JOHN SLIDELL in the cells of convicted felons until certain military officers of the United States, captured and held by the so-called Confederate States, should be treated as prisoners of war, therefore, be it

Resolved, As the sense of this House, it is the duty of the President to now firmly maintain the stand thus taken, approving and adopting the act of Capt. WILKES, in spite of any menace or demand of the British Government, and that this House pledges its full support to him in upholding now the honor and vindicating the courage of the Government and people of the United States against a foreign Power.

Mr. VALLANDIGHAM moved the previous question. They had heard the first growl of the British Lion. It remained to be seen who would cower.

Mr. FENTON, of New-York, (Rep.,) hoped the resolution would be referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. VALLANDIGHAM remarked that a former resolution, appropatory of Capt. WILKES, was passed without being so referred. He (VALLANDIGHAM) had offered this resolution in good faith, and would stand by it.

The House then refused to second the demand for the previous question.

Mr. FENTON again moved that the preamble and resolution be referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

The motion was agreed to, by Yeas, 109; Nays, 16.

The House resumed the consideration of the bill authorizing the raising of a volunteer force for the better defense of Kentucky.

Mr. LOVEJOY, of Illinois, (Rep.,) hoped that the bill would not pass. According to the official returns we have a standing army of between six and seven hundred thousand men, which is amply sufficient for the war. We have more soldiers now than can be used—therefore, the raising of twenty thousand volunteers for the war should not be authorized. He did not understand that the military authorities had asked for this increase. Besides, he was opposed to the mode of raising the men and officering them.

Mr. RICHARDSON, of Illinois, (Opp.,) trusted that the bill would pass. The volunteers proposed to be raised in Kentucky were of the best kind, and familiar with the State. The base of operations was at Louisville, and 20,000 men were necessary to guard the base, and the line on which our army is to advance.

Mr. WICKLIFFE, of Kentucky, (Union,) said Kentucky has furnished a quota of 27,000 men. He repeated what he said the other day, namely, that before he introduced the bill he mentioned the subject to the Secretary of War, and also consulted the President, who, together with his Cabinet, he was informed, approved of the measure. As to Mr. LOVEJOY's opposition, he knew that gentleman would vote against anything but what related to negroes. In the course of his remarks, Mr. WICKLIFFE said that whenever our army shall move to take possession of Columbus, we will require every soldier that can be brought into the field, to retake the place and march on Tennessee. The volunteers will not be required to serve in Kentucky alone, but to fight wherever an enemy can be found, and they will do it. He (WICKLIFFE) entered his protest against making a regular army out of these more than six hundred thousand volunteers. The gentleman from Illinois (LOVEJOY) was at the Battle of Bull Run, and must have seen we have not men enough. [Laughter.] The decisive battle in this campaign must be fought in Kentucky, and when fought, he wanted the highways protected.

Mr. STEVENS, of Pennsylvania, (Rep.,) opposed the bill. It was neither estimated nor called for by any Department of the Government. The war must be carried on in the most economical manner, so that the country will not become alarmed and be compelled to abandon it. We must practice economy, and restrain the expenditures within proper limits. We shall have to provide for a deficiency of from one hundred and sixty to two hundred and fourteen millions of dollars, in addition to the regular appropriation of four hundred and thirty millions, making necessary a total appropriation of six hundred millions of dollars. We could not vote a dollar to call into the service any more troops than now are enlistered, unless a necessity can be shown for their employment.

Mr. DUNLAP, of Kentucky, (Union,) earnestly advocated the passage of the bill, and showed the necessity of supplying the proposed force. The fierce contest may take place at any hour. Kentucky has been called the dark and bloody ground, and there must be a force sufficient to defend that Border State. They want this force for home protection first, and then on the border. When the Secessionists shall be driven out, they want this force in addition to the other twenty-six thousand men already there in the field. Kentucky will not be driven out of the Union. She will remain true and loyal. She was the first to come into the Union after the formation of the Constitution, and will be the last to leave it.

Mr. DIVEN, of New-York, (Rep.,) supported the bill on the ground that the rebellion must be put down speedily, or the resources of the country will be exhausted. If this additional force will have the effect of conquering the rebels, then it would be economical to authorize it.

Mr. LOVEJOY, in reply to the remarks of Mr. WICKLIFFE, said: He would carry on the war to put down the rebellion, and let Slavery take care of itself. He (LOVEJOY) was not to be intimidated by any sneers or allusions to his Anti-Slavery sentiment. He was not afraid of the slave-driver's whip. It was true that he was at Bull Run, but he (LOVEJOY) did not run.

Mr. WICKLIFFE—I only said that you were there. (Laughter.)

Mr. LOVEJOY said, that was true. The battle of Bull Run was not lost for want of brave soldiers, but because a portion of the officers were drunk. He was willing to protect every loyal man who loves the Union more than Slavery, and would protect them to the extent of the power of the United States. He (LOVEJOY) was willing to vote, in good faith, men and money, but not for the proposed force at an expense of thirty millions of dollars when it is not needed. Some of the superfluous force on the Potomac River ought to be sent to Kentucky.

Mr. WRIGHT, of Pennsylvania, (Union,) in advocating the bill, said: The force was not for police service, but would act as an auxillary to the army of the United States. It was reported unanimously from the Committee on Military Affairs. Kentucky had behaved with great magnanimity, and had, in addition to furnishing her full quota of troops, provided for paying her apportionment of the war tax.

Mr. HICKMAN, of Pennsylvania, (Republican,) did not see why the war should be conducted differently in Kentucky than in any other State. She does not require a military system otherwise than is established by law. In reply to Mr. LOVEJOY, he (HICKMAN) said that he understood that the reason why the army was held here inactive was, that the recruits required training, so as to make soldiers of them fit for the war.

Messrs. BINGHAM, of Ohio, MAYNARD, of Tennessee, and MORRILL, of Vermont, severally spoke in favor of the bill.

Mr. BLAIR, of Missouri, (Rep.,) closed the debate. In reply to Mr. LOVEJOY, he said: We have the best reason to believe that we have not men enough in the field, for we have not been able to conquer the enemy anywhere as yet, and we have not met him at any time excepting when he outnumbered us. Hence we have not been able to drive back the foe one foot.

Mr. LOVEJOY replied, accounting for this by the fact that the enemy will not meet us, unless when he is in superior numbers.

Mr. BLAIR—Then why should not our army overrun the enemy?

Mr. LOVEJOY—Because we have no Generals.

Mr. BLAIR advocated the passage of the bill.

The bill was passed.

Mr. ALLEN, (Opp.,) of Ohio, introduced a joint resolution, that, the Senate concurring, when the House adjourn on Thursday next, it be until the 6th of January.

The resolution was adopted, by 60 against 56.

Adjourned.

Senator Wilson's Bill.

The following is the bill introduced by Senator WILSON to-day, for the release of certain persons held to service or labor in the District of Columbia:

Be it enacted, &c., &c., That all persons held to service or labor within the District of Columbia by reason of African descent, are hereby discharged and freed of and from all claim to such service or labor, and subjection to service or labor proceeding from such cause shall not hereafter exist in this District.

SEC. 2. *Be it further enacted*, That all persons holding claims to service or labor against persons discharged therefrom by this act, may, within ninety days from the passage hereof, but not thereafter, present to the Commissioners hereinafter mentioned, their respective statements or petitions, in writing, verified by oath or affirmation, setting forth the names, ages and personal description of such persons, the manner in which said petitioner acquired such claims, and any fact touching the value thereof.

SEC. 3. *Be it further enacted*, That the President of the United States, with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint three Commissioners, residents of the District of Columbia, any two of whom shall have power to act, who shall receive the petitions above mentioned, and who shall investigate and determine the legal validity of the claims therein presented, and who shall appraise and apportion, under the proviso hereto annexed, the value in money of the several claims found by them to be valid; *provided*, however, that the entire sum so appraised and apportioned shall not exceed in the aggregate an amount equal to three hundred dollars for each person shown to have been held by lawful claim.

SEC. 4. *Be it further enacted*, That said Commissioners shall, within 9 months from the passage of this act, make a full and final report of their proceedings, findings and appraisements, and shall deliver the same to the Secretary of the Treasury; which report shall be deemed and taken to be conclusive in all respects, except as hereinafter provided, and the Secretary of the Treasury shall, with like exception, cause the amount so apportioned to said claims to be paid from the Treasury of the United States to the parties found by said report to be the lawful holders thereof, and the same shall be received in full and complete compensation; *provided*, that in cases where petitions may be filed presenting conflicting claims or setting up liens, said Commissioners shall so specify in said report, and payment shall not be made according to the award of said Commissioners until a period of sixty days shall have elapsed, during which time any petitioner, claiming an interest in the particular amount may file a bill in Equity in the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia, making all other claimant defendants thereto setting forth the proceedings in such case before said Commissioners and their action therein, and praying that the party to whom payment has been awarded may be enjoined from receiving the value, and if said Court shall grant such provisional order, a copy thereof may on motion of said complainant, be served upon the Secretary of the Treasury, who shall thereupon cause the said amount of money to be paid into said Court, subject to its orders and final decree, which payment shall be in full and complete compensation as in the other case.

Be it further enacted, that said Commissioners shall hold their sessions in the City of Washington, at such place and times as the President of the United States may direct, of which they shall give due and public notice. They shall have power to subpœna and compel attendance of witnesses, and to receive testimony and enforce its production, as in civil cases before Courts of justice, and they may summon before them the persons making claim to service or labor, and examine them under oath, and they may also, for the purposes of identification and appraisement, call before them the persons so claimed. Said Commissioners shall appoint a clerk, who shall keep files and a complete record of all proceedings before them, who shall have power to administer oaths and affirmations in said proceedings, in all lawful process by them ordered. The Marshal of the District of Columbia shall personally, or by Deputy, attend upon the sessions of said Commissioners, and shall execute the process issued by said Clerk.

SEC. 6. *Be it further enacted*, That said Commissioners shall receive, in compensation for their services, the sum of $2,000 each, to be paid upon the filing of their report; that the said clerk shall receive for his services the sum of $200 per month; that the said Marshal shall receive such fees as are allowed by law for similar services performed by him in the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia; that the Secretary of the Treasury shall cause other reasonable expenses of said commission to be audited and allowed, and that said compensation fees and expenses shall be paid from the Treasury of the United States.

SEC. 7. *Be it further enacted*, For the purposes of carrying this act into effect there is hereby appropriated from the Treasury of the United States a sum not exceeding $1,000,000.

POLITICAL AND MILITARY MOVEMENTS.

The Anti-Slavery Feeling in Congress—Position of the Government—Military Matters.

Correspondence of the New-York Times.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Friday, Dec. 13, 1861.

The recent caucuses of Republican members of Congress, and the result of their deliberations, have a far more important bearing upon public affairs than appears from the very incomplete reports published in relation thereto. Ten days ago there seemed to be danger that the more radical element in Congress might pursue a course which would divide the Republican Party and array one wing of it in open hostility to the Administration. The issue on which so unfortunate a condition of affairs was to be brought about relates chiefly—as everybody knows—to the relations of Slavery to the war; the radicals insisting that the Administration must avail itself of the present opportunity to declare general emancipation, and "wipe out" Slavery as the primary cause of the great rebellion.

There is no occasion to question the motives or sincerity of those who favor this view. It is enough for us to know that the President, in his annual Message, proclaimed no such policy, but reiterated his purpose to prosecute the war for the restoration of the Union, by bringing all the States into subjection to the Constitution and the laws, *as they stand*. If the party supporters of the President take issue with him at this juncture, and divide their forces—a part of them repudiating the policy of the Administration, and setting up a new one in conflict therewith—of course other and opposing parties would be reorganized, and it would not be long ere the unity of sentiment and purpose among loyal citizens, which has proved our prime element of strength during the war, would have been lost forever. The time is not auspicious for new issues. Prudence forbids them, until Time's changes shall have brought an overwhelming public sentiment out in demand of them.

But the friends of sudden and absolute emancipation are impatient of delay. They desire to *make* public sentiment by agitation. Thus, when Congress assembled, we witnessed serenades and speech-making, addressed evidently to the purpose of creating a public sentiment in favor of extreme measures; and finally a Republican caucus was called with a view to securing unanimity of action in Congress, in favor of some of the more extreme propositions already introduced in the House of Representatives. At the first meeting the radicals had everything their own way. And so it was at the opening of the second caucus—the more conservative (another term just now for "more patient") members thinking it best to let their opponents tell all their grievances before answering. Finally, Hon. T. M. POMEROY, of the Cayuga District of New-York—a new and young member, but an able and eloquent speaker—took the floor, and after giving free expression to his own most earnest convictions against Slavery and its deleterious influence, opposed the ultra policy under discussion, showing that it was the first duty of every true and wise man to stand by the Administration in the present emergency, and that any other course would destroy party, Government and all together. He also argued with force that in conducting the war for the Union the great battle must be fought *under* the Constitution. His terse manner of stating the case, made it clear that Government cannot maintain the Union made *by* the Constitution, if it repudiates the obligations of the Constitution itself, and resorts to revolution.

This was the turning-point in the debate. Various other gentlemen took the same position with Mr. POMEROY, and the caucus finally unanimously indorsed the policy of confiscating *all* rebel property, including slaves, and adjourned without even taking a vote on any of the more radical measures pending. It is evident, now, that the Administration will be sustained and that Congress will not undertake to "run the war" on its own account, but will leave all that to the Executive, holding him responsible for a wise discharge of his high duties. The time may arrive, if this causeless and wicked insurrection continues, when all parties will come to the conclusion that general emancipation is the only alternative of the destruction of the Government; but *when* that day comes, if ever, the case will be so clear that there will be none of the present danger of division and dissension among loyal men as to the policy—but Executive, Congress, army and civilians, will all alike concur in its wisdom and expediency.

The rebel commanders in Virginia, and the powers at Richmond, are felicitating themselves on the idea that Congress will goad the Administration into another "On to Richmond" affair; and it will turn out in due time that *they have prepared a series of traps for us*, in the hope of giving our troops a fatal surprise, and thus involving them in another Bull Run stampede. They will fail. Gen. MCCLELLAN is pursuing a line of policy fully approved by Gen. SCOTT before his retirement, which has the entire confidence of the Executive, and from which he is not likely to be moved by popular impatience. Aside from the patriotic considerations controlling his conduct, he knows full well that all presents doubts and suspicions of his course will vanish when time shall have vindicated the wisdom of his prudence and caution; while a great disaster to our army, under his leadership, would not only do irreparable damage to the cause, but ruin his own fame. He can afford to wait.

Let us rest assured that Gen. MCCLELLAN is more familiar with the condition of the enemy than the public possibly can be; and that he, therefore, is best able to judge the proper time and manner of attack to insure success. It is generally supposed that the enemy's strong position is at Manassas Junction, and those who are dissatisfied with the inaction of the army are urging an advance upon that point, and arguing learnedly to show that the true policy is to strike the enemy where he is strongest, &c., &c. I am able to assert that this is an error. It will be discovered in due time that *the works at Manassas have been dismantled, and that the rebels have prepared a labyrinth of fortifications at and near Centreville*, which they have taken great pains to conceal. They have been expecting the Nationals to rush "On to Manassas," and thus involve them at Centreville in unexpected destruction. Be assured that I am not mistaken in this. Then, what would the country have said if Gen. MCCLELLAN had been driven by their impatience into the trap thus prepared for him? In due time the diversions on the Southern coast and in East Tennessee will compel a weakening of the rebel lines in Virginia, and then our army will be able to win more decisive victories than now, at far less cost. Meantime, every day is improving the efficiency of the volunteer troops, and no time is lost. On the contrary, it is far better employed in camp than it could be in the field at the present time. If the blows on the Southern coast fail to weaken the rebel lines in Virginia, by causing the withdrawal of troops to defend the Cotton States, the country southward is open to an advance of an army directly upon their own soil, thus forcing the rebels to the alternative of either giving up Virginia or all the States lying south of her, as the TIMES has already so clearly shown. Why, then, should not the people be well contented with the present policy of making haste slowly?

A personal friend of Major-Gen. HALLECK states that they are much mistaken who suppose the General's recent order, excluding slaves from his lines, was designed in any degree for the interests of the masters. His orders exclude *all* unauthorized persons, white or black, who might give information to the enemy. It is perfectly certain that the enemy does get a great deal more information than he is entitled to by some means. These facilities should be curtailed if possible; and it may be questioned if anybody's judgment as to the best means of securing the desired secrecy should be esteemed superior to that of a General commanding a Division. It was in this view, I doubtless, that the House of Representatives refused to request the President to modify Gen. HALLECK's late proclamation.

I understand that Major-Gen. HALLECK's policy is not to recognize slaves or slavery in the administration of his Department. If a black man comes along and he wants his services for the Government in any capacity, he will employ him as a man, paying him his wages, and making an end of it. If he chooses to go on to the North, it is none of his business; or, if a thousand black men choose to pass around his lines to find their way to freedom, he is no slave-catcher to turn them back. To receive them as slaves, and register them as the property of anybody, is to make a record for future investigation and litigation; where, as, by the course Gen. HALLECK has marked out, neither he nor the Government incur any responsibility whatever. There certainly is room for discussion, as to whether this is not, after all, by far, the best method yet devised for treating this slave question. At all events it has the merit of freedom from complications of all kinds.

Hon. FRANK P. BLAIR, of Missouri, will soon bring forward a bill carrying out his scheme of African colonization in Central America. In the meantime an agent is now here from Guatemala, with authority from the Government to arrange for the colonization of free blacks in that Republic, which offers grants of land and other privileges to colored immigrants. Guatemala possesses a delightful climate, and cotton grows finely there with ordinary cultivation. Our Minister, Mr. CROSLEY, has interested himself very much in the efforts of the President of Guatemala to develop the resources of the country by calling in labor from abroad.

Ex-Senator GWIN and his companions have been finally enlarged by order of Secretary SEWARD, on their parole of honor not to go into a disloyal State or in any way aid and abet the rebellion. Dr. GWIN some time ago sold all his property in California and invested the proceeds in Mississippi, where it is his intention ultimately to reside. He declines to take the oath of allegiance to the Government, because that act would lead to the confiscation of his estate in rebeldom.

AUSTIN E. SMITH—son of Extra BILLY, of Virginia—who was arrested some months ago and sent to Fort Lafayette, on his arrival from California, is still in durance. He has an important law suit pending in California, involving every dollar he is worth on earth. Recently he asked permission of the Government to go to California under guard or on parole, that he may be present at the trial of his cause. Secretary SEWARD very properly and peremptorily refused to discharge him on any other condition than that he should take the oath of allegiance, which he declines to do. Truly Mr. SMITH presents a pretty spectacle,—breathing treason against the Government and then claiming protection in his rights of property through the very Courts of the country to which he refuses to swear allegiance!

S.

A Military Railroad by an Air Line Route from New-York to Washington.

Hon. Simon Cameron, Secretary of War:

SIR: The subject of a more effective and rapid mode of communication between Washington and New-York is becoming so prominent before Congress and the people, and the great necessity for such an improvement is being felt to such an extent by the Government, and more particularly by that department over which you preside, that I will venture to submit for your consideration some views which I have long entertained in relation to the matter.

It will be taken for granted that the question as to the expediency, if not absolute necessity of such an improvement is no longer an open one, and that the only real question now is, how the object can be most effectually accomplished within the shortest possible time, and with the least injury to existing interests, which have a fair claim to consideration in the decision of the question.

In a strictly engineering point of view, the only considerations which should materially influence the location of a railroad, are the natural topographical obstructions to an air line direction between the fixed terminal points. From a general knowledge of the country between New-York and Washington, I believe there are but two points of this character on the entire route which should materially affect its location. These are the crossing of the Delaware and Susquehanna Rivers at points where the construction of permanent bridges would offer the least obstruction to navigation. I suppose these points to be at or near Trenton, on the Delaware, and at a little above Port Deposit, on the Susquehanna. An air line drawn from New-York to Washington measures about 195 miles, and crosses the Delaware about six miles above Trenton, and the Susquehanna about seven miles below Port Deposit. These divergencies, together with those rendered necessary by the topography of the country between these fixed points, would be so slight as to produce very little practical elongation of the line. The face of the entire country between New-York and Washington is unusually favorable for locating, constructing, and operating a railroad. The grades need not exceed a maximum of twenty-five feet per mile in either direction, nor the curves less than a minimum of three thousand feet radius. The cost of graduation will be much less per mile than that of any other road extending the same distance out of the City of New-York; and the facilities for operating will be greater as the ratio of maximum grades diminishes, or minimum curvature increases, in comparison with other roads of the same length.

Unfortunately, however, there are considerations of a local and commercial, nature which will be made to enter largely into this whole question, some of which it is to be feared will be sufficiently powerful to defeat any plan that may be submitted for materially improving the present facilities of transport between the commercial and the political metropolis of the country. I refer particularly to the present railroad interest between New-York and Washington, and the local interest of Philadelphia, Baltimore, and other considerable towns along the route, whose interests are advanced in proportion as the delays and embarrassments attending the passage of freight and passengers through them are increased.

It is entirely apparent that all interests of this nature should be regarded and treated as subservient to the great interests of the whole country, and the necessities of the Government. If it be wise to use the credit of the General Government as a basis for a circulating medium for the whole country, how much more wise would it be, particularly in times of war, to have the credit and power of the Government underlie and control all the important railroad lines in the country, to such an extent as to render them most available for the transportation of the mails, and for military purposes.

If Washington is to remain the Capital of the United States, the Government should at once originate and construct a system of railroads with double track, a common gauge, and upon the best practicable routes radiating from Washington to New-York, on the Atlantic, to Cleveland or some other point on the Lakes, to Cincinnati on the Ohio, and to New-Orleans on the Mississippi and Gulf of Mexico. Every one of these lines can be constructed and put in operation within two years, without the ultimate cost of one dollar to the Government, beyond the temporary loan of its credit, and a fair contract for carrying the mails and munitions of war. In most, if not all cases, where the proper route would come in conflict with existing roads, the interests could easily be combined and harmonized upon a basis that would promote instead of retard the undertaking.

The

part so wholesomely. It is well known by all the Winter travelers in Russia, Germany and Sweden.

Query: Could not a Soyer devise some decoction of water, ginger and sugar, when beer is wanting, as the next best substitute? Invent it, and you will be benefactors to hundreds of thousands of your fellows in arms. The subject is fully as serious as that of shoes and flannels for an army. Cold promotes typhus in the camps as much as great heat does, and ginger flip is a preventive of this fiend of men in camp. This flip lecture is delivered to you, my brave boys, as earnestly as I am delivering at present my lectures on the Law and Usages of War, in this City. Read it in turn to your men.

The great difficulty with spirituous liquors is that, instead of producing a genial glow, they merely stimulate—they do not *nourish*; consequently, when the stimulant effect is passed, a reaction takes place, which produces a greater feeling of cold, requiring fresh stimulants, and so on to a ruinous end.

THE WESTERN DEPARTMENT.

The New Department—Its boundaries—Precarious Condition of the Border—Outrages at Weston, Mo.—Col. Jennison's Movements — Gen. Denver — Dissatisfaction — Bounty Lands for Soldiers.

Correspondence of the New-York Times.

WESTERN DEPARTMENT, LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS, Sunday, Dec. 1, 1861.

Our new Military Department has scarcely got into working order. Major-Gen. DAVID HUNTER arrived here last Monday, and assumed command next day. At present the post does not present a very lively appearance, there being but a small body of troops stationed there. The creation of the new Department gives great satisfaction, except in one particular, and that is in relation to lines. A glance at the maps will show that naturally a portion of Western Missouri should have been included within its boundaries. The Eastern line has been run without regard, it would seem, to the means of transit and communication, of defence, or of any other of the considerations which enter into military movements. A glance at the map will show that the State line of Kansas is not the proper military boundary of so important a department as this. Kansas City, Parkville, Weston and St. Joe, are nothing, geographically speaking, but outposts of these headquarters. All our railroad and telegraph facilities are in this portion of Missouri, and in the event of a successful lodgment of the rebels there, they are in their hands. Weston, for instance, is but seven miles from Fort Leavenworth. It is the terminus of the Platte County Road, our only eastern railroad connection. The ferry is owned by Secessionists, and the town is largely inclined in the same direction. Platte County is strongly secession. ST. GORDON and MERRITT YOUNG'S bands of guerrillas make headquarters at Platte City, twelve miles directly east of this place. There are scores of sympathizers in our midst, and one of the first things to be done here is the incarceration of a number of rebel sympathizers, both here and in the places named. Everything transpiring in the city or fort is immediately conveyed over to Platte, and thence through the State. To obviate this, and above all to secure from attack even these headquarters, to say nothing of protecting the border and river counties of Kansas, a portion of Western Missouri will have to be included within Gen. HUNTER'S jurisdiction.

Some later incidents will illustrate the above. On Thursday, Gen. DENVER, with his Aid-de-camps, Lieut. BRODHEAD, and Capts. MOONLIGHT and ROBB, with Lieut. WHITE, all of the Kansas Brigade, the first-named being the artillerists of the command, came East, from St. Joseph, on the Platte Railroad. Gen. DENVER, with his suite, stopped at Atchison. The others came down to Weston. On their arrival, they were taken prisoners by a party under MERRITT YOUNG. They are still in the hands of the Confederates. The affair created a great sensation here, and Gen. HUNTER was of course approached. Here came the difficulty. It was in Gen. HALLECK'S Department. So our best officers are to be seized within seven miles of Fort Leavenworth, and no remedy can be given. It is reported that the Confederate General STEIN is in command, having returned from the Southwest with a small force, which, however, grows as it rolls. On Friday night the same party seized the train on its arrival in the afternoon. They took possession of mail, express, passengers' baggage, locomotive and cars, making prisoners of the conductor and engineers. The passengers, eighteen in number, had to cross the river in a skiff, the ice running very thick at the same time. Yet nothing was done. Yesterday the mail was recovered, and part of the baggage and express. A bridge at Jatan, six miles east of Weston, was burned. The rail is left, while the trellis and abutments are treacherously consumed, so that to all appearance the bridge is secure. Last night, at a late hour, a force of several hundred infantry and cavalry crossed both at the city ferry and at Weston. They took four pieces, two of them 18-pounders, with them. Nothing has yet been heard of their movements, except that they occupied Weston and Platte City this morning, but found no enemy. Of course they had "skaddaddled." The officer in command at St. Joseph, upon whom properly devolves the protection of this section—Col. SMITH, of Illinois—seems to totally misunderstand the requirements of his position. He has under his command over three thousand men. Several times have detachments been sent down to both places, and each time they have marched back again, without doing anything but leaving the few Union men in a more isolated condition than before. About fifty of the prominent Union men of Weston left that town last week. Secession is far more active and violent than when the war first commenced, in this section. So it is below, in Jackson and neighboring counties. Col. JENNISON'S policy is having the effect of crushing out the rebellious sentiment of Kansas City and neighborhood, the armed bands, grown desperate, and encouraged by the reinforcements which are reported on their way North.

It is just reported in the city, that Capt. MOONLIGHT made his escape from his captors, and arrived at his home, about seven miles from the city, this afternoon. I have not yet learned the particulars of the escape, but shall see the Captain in the morning. He is a gallant and energetic officer, and his escape will be the cause of gratulation.

My last letter was dated from the command of Col. JENNISON, at Kansas City. At that time, eight companies were stationed at Independence, at Camp Anthony, under command of the Lieutenant-Colonel. The remainder were at Camp "Kage." On Thursday last, he was reinforced by five companies of the Missouri Seventh (infantry) mostly composed of Irishmen from MULLIGAN'S Brigade. He has also received the right section of TOTTEN'S famous battery. This makes his force about 1,600 strong, with three pieces. The guerillas returned no answer, as they agreed to the propositions of the Colonel, already forwarded to you. On Wednesday, at 6 P. M., the time expired. That night two of the pickets at Camp Anthony were shot, one of them dead. This roused the command, and both divisions moved out to clear the country. The Missouri River bottoms below Independence were visited, and a number of the active guerillas trapped. The house of a man who was identified by the wounded picket as the man who shot his comrade, was burnt, and he himself slain. The town of Wyman, a small hamlet of thirty to forty houses, was burnt, as also a number of scattered buildings. Fourteen kegs of powder, stolen from the arsenal at Liberty last Summer, were found in a vault of the cemetery, near Independence. On Thursday, a man named FITZPATRICK, a desperate rebel, who boasted of having killed a Union man while guarding him as a prisoner, and also a Federal officer at Lexington, whose revolver he was wearing at the time of capture, was shot by order of Col. JENNISON. For the last three days the Pacific Railroad stages, which run daily between Kansas City and Sedalia, the terminus of the road, have been detained below Independence by order of Superintendent HAYS. The drivers report a large force at Pleasant Hill, and below. It is variously estimated at from 6,000 to 10,000 men. The advance is reported under command of READ, formerly a member of Congress from that section of Missouri. HARRIS, of Clay County, is also said to be along, and some rumors stated that PRICE is close behind. The object of such a movement on the part of the rebels seems to be to ensconce themselves in the counties adjoining Kansas for the Winter. Very little damage has been done to Platte, Clay, and the counties east and south of them on the north side of the river. The wealthy towns in that section will make very desirable quarters for the Confederates, while their strategic advantages are many. Kansas City is especially desirable, for from it these headquarter would be placed in imminent danger, and the whole of the Kansas border threatened. Outside of Col. JENNISON'S command, which rightly belongs to HUNTER'S department, there is only a force of sixty Home Guards stationed at that place. Five thousand men could hold it against fifteen thousand, and it would take twice as many to recapture. It is situated at the junction of the Kansas with the Missouri River, and the larger portion of the town is built on a high plateau which commands the surrounding country in all directions. It is a well-built town, and would afford comfortable quarters. A large portion of the property in the place is owned by secession sympathizers. If Gen. HALLECK means to abandon Missouri, it will become absolutely necessary to destroy the towns I have named, with, perhaps, the exception of St. Joseph. It will not be feasible for the small body of troops in this department to hold it, and it will not do to allow the enemy to do so.

Col. JENNISON, with the whole command of 1,600 men, has moved out both from Independence and Kansas City, to a point near Westport, where he will be enabled to use his force to better advantage if outnumbered.

Major HOUGH, of Col. ELLIS' Illinois Cavalry Regiment, commanding Gen. HUNTER'S Body Guard, arrived here on Friday from Springfield. The command consisted of four companies and a small party of infantry. They drove in about a thousand head of cattle, belonging to the Government trains taken by the guerillas, which the Major recaptured. They had several bush fights, in the course of which Major HOUGH and some six men were severely wounded. They took twenty-five prisoners, the majority of whom, it is to be hoped, that Gen. HUNTER will shoot.

The Kansas regiments are all of them expected to winter within the bounds of this Department. The First is at Tipton, Mo., and was ordered to report here, but the order has been countermanded on account of the dangerous position of affairs there. The Second Kansas is reorganizing. The Third, Fourth and Fifth are the Kansas Brigade, and average about 700 in each. There is also two full batteries attached, and two companies of scouts. They are at Fort Scott, and will winter there. Information just received leads to the belief that Col. MONTGOMERY, who is in command, is moving North, along the border, probably with a view to protect the border against the force said to be congregating in Cass County, Mo., and below. The Sixth is stationed permanently at Forts Scott and Lincoln, and on the State line South. The Seventh is the First Cavalry, Col. JENNISON'S. The Eighth is encamped at Lawrence, and numbers about 750. The Ninth and Tenth are intended, when raised, for service in New-Mexico. The Eleventh and Twelfth Cavalry are being organized. The latter has over 600 men in camp at the fort. The other is said to have four full companies. Thus the Kansas quota has swelled from the 2,700 called for to about 9,000 effective men, most of whom have done gallant service in the field. And how has this State been treated? The men, to-day, especially those belonging to the Brigade, have fared harder, marched further, and are worse clothed and equipped than any other three thousand men in the service. The only notice taken of their action so far officially has been the insulting remarks of Gen. THOMAS in his letter to Gen. FREMONT. The people, as well as the troops, asked the appointment of Gen. LANE to a command, either as head of this Department or in the field. They have been refused, though the nomination of Gen. HUNTER is received with eminent satisfaction. But there is another officer here whose presence is not so acceptable. I allude to Gen. DENVER. He reported to Gen. HUNTER on Friday, and was ordered to assume the command of the Kansas Brigade. This appointment has roused strong feelings of indignation, not only because the Kansas soldiers and officers feel the injustice of sending a Californian to command the troops of a State which has done so much; but, also, because there are many bitter personal feelings among leading officers on account of past political differences. There never was but one Territorial Governor who would be heartily welcomed in Kansas, and that is Col. GEARY. DENVER, as Kansas Governors go, was endurable, but there are many things which rankle bitterly in relation to his career. It should be borne in mind that the politics of Kansas have been of a revolutionary cast, and as a consequence the associations and memories thereof are earnest, and often bitter. It is this very element that gives efficiency to the Kansas men in this fight, and it was hardly a sagacious thing to do to put a man who has been ranked *here* on the wrong side of our fight to command the men of Kansas. But putting this side of the subject away, it does seem strange that California is to have so many Generals and Kansas none. There are men here, it is believed, equally as competent to command our own soldiers as Gen. DENVER. I am giving you, epitomized, the remarks I have heard on all sides, since the appointment of Gen. DENVER to this command has been made public. It is to be feared that it will disorganize the Brigade, though I trust not. Gen. DENVER is a shrewd and sagacious administrator, and may steer clear of the difficulties before him.

The Surveyor-General of Kansas and Nebraska, Hon. M. W. DELAHAY, has lately issued a circular upon the subject of bounty lands to the volunteers. He asks for an extension of surveys in his district, and for appropriations to carry them out, estimated at $74,604 for Kansas, and $75,292 for Nebraska, making a total of $149,986 for the ensuing year. The present appropriation is but $20,000, and but little more than meets the current office and other expenses. The Surveyor-General claims that Congress should adopt the policy of giving volunteers the choice, as after the Mexican war was done, of allowing soldiers to choose between a land or money bounty. As there will be a very large portion of the soldiers whose former avocations will not be open to them at the end of the war, it is to be expected they will choose the bounty lands. They will not desire to locate in the rebellious States, and by far the greater number will seek homes in those States and Territories which are in the great central zone of civilization upon this continent. These are undoubtedly those composing this Land District. Another reason, and a forcible one, too, for this assumption, is in the fact that the Inter-Oceanic Railroad, with its main trunk and branches, must also pass through it. These reasons will urge the soldiers in settling, to a great extent, in those parallels of latitude within which States have risen so rapidly upon the American continent. At present the total amount of surveyed lands in Kansas and Nebraska amounts only to eighteen millions of acres, sufficient to locate only 112,500 land warrants, were there to be none donated to the purposes of building the Pacific or even State Railroads. Of these eighteen millions, over two millions are donated for school and railroad purposes, in Kansas, leaving only 15,894,589 acres untaken. Undoubtedly other territories will have a portion of the emigration, that at the end of this war will seek an outlet, but to a great extent, as in the past, the continental column of the centre will be most largely augmented. There is another suggestion advanced as an argument for the increased surveys, which is of such a practical and common-sense character, that I give it in the words of the Surveyor-General himself. It is in relation to the homestead principle, as adopted by the Republican party. Here is the extract:

"I would also call the attention of the Government to the probable working of the 'Homestead bill,' should such become a law. While all are anxious that the patriotic citizens should reap its benefit, none are willing that those now in arms against the Government shall, after the war is terminated, enjoy equal advantages with those whose pulse has ever beat true to the Union. It is true that the Administration, by the Chicago Platform, is pledged to the 'Free Homestead Policy,' but in view of the large number now in the service, and daily augmenting and engaged in opposing the present rebellion, I would, in lieu of the Homestead policy, recommend the Bounty Land policy. By the latter our true and loyal citizens or their heirs alone will enjoy the benefit of the bounty."

The point made in the above will be at once appreciated by the public, especially by that large body of it so actively engaged in the putting down of this nefarious rebellion. It is to be hoped the subject thus ably presented by Mr. DELAHAY will receive due consideration at the hands of Congress. H. J.

FROM KENTUCKY.

Garrett Davis United States Senator—Powell Suspected—Resolutions Before the House—Mooted Suggestions About the Slaves of Rebels—Perilous Condition of the Slave System in Secessia—Its Liability to Self-Destruction, under the Let-Alone Policy, in Case of a Protracted War—Good Report from the Military Board—Patriotic Action of the Legislature—East Tennessee, Etc.

Correspondence of the New-York Times.

LOUISVILLE, Wednesday, Dec. 11, 1861.

Hon. GARRETT DAVIS takes the Senatorial seat of JOHN C. BRECKINRIDGE. The legislative caucus was divided between DAVIS, BELL and GUTHRIE. After several hours balloting, Mr. BELL being at last withdrawn, on the next and final ballot Mr. DAVIS received 46 and Mr. GUTHRIE 45—Mr. BERMAN, from Louisville, for some reason or other, having turned the scale in favor of Mr. DAVIS. Mr. GUTHRIE, or some other unflinchingly loyal Louisvillian, may soon be called on to take the place of Mr. POWELL. Mr. POWELL is generally suspected. He may deserve arraignment before the bar of the Senate. If he cannot there render a satisfactory account of his recent antecedents, associations, whereabouts, and whatabouts, and of his recent status, motives, and designs, let him be expelled, and consigned to the disposal of the Executive for safe keeping. Mr. DAVIS will honor his State and country. It is truly said of him that he has labored with wonderful perseverance and fearlessness to arm the loyal men of Kentucky, and place them in a condition and position to defend themselves, and he fully represents the sentiments of his native commonwealth, that secession is no remedy for evils, but rather an aggravation, and that the surest guarantee for the protection of the rights of the South is to be found in the Union and under the Constitution.

The substance of Mr. WOLFE'S resolutions before the House is that Kentucky looks to the United States Constitution as Slavery's surest foundation, and believes there is no security for its preservation outside of that Constitution; that the United States Government has so far acted within the limits of the Constitution, and has always evinced a disposition to respect the rights of the Slave States in the protection of their property; that the National Government is justified in confiscating the property of armed rebels and their abettors, as a high national prerogative; that arming or emancipating the rebels' slaves would be repugnant and abhorrent to Kentucky sentiment, fraught with incalculable injury to Kentucky interests, to the rights of loyal Kentuckians, and of all other loyal or would-be loyal Southerners, and tending to strengthen and spread the rebel cause, to prolong and aggravate the war and extend its theatre, to break down the Union, break up the Government, and involve the people of the whole country in a common ruin. Resolutions similar to Mr. WOLFE'S have been presented by Col. HARNEY, Gen. HUSTON, of Clarke, and Judge YEAMAN, of Daviess.

Col. MANSON, of the Indiana Tenth, in a speech on the 9th to the Louisville ladies and gentlemen, who had presented his gallant men with an elegant silk flag, said, "You have been told this is an Abolition war; but let me say to you, in the name of the loyal men of Indiana, that we scorn the imputation. I say here to-day, and one thousand Indianians within the sound of my voice will bear me witness that it is an infamous lie. We wage no Abolition crusade. The preservation of this Government is an object too sacred to be trammeled by collateral issues, and although desolation may be the fate of treason, wherever in arms, the Constitution, around which we rally as one man, is ample to protect every loyal citizen in his rights." The reported serenade speeches of Gov. MORTON, Mr. KELLOGG, of Illinois, and Judge SMITH of Wisconsin, in Washington City, on the 7th, are warmly approved in Kentucky.

The *Democrat*, to-day, throws out these suggestions: "When the army occupies any portion of Slave territory, and the slaves are deserted by their masters, there remains no civil law over them—the State laws are practically null, the State authority is gone through the dereliction of its officers, and the slaves thus become practically free. Ought they be permitted to rove through the country, forbidden to be employed by the army, or ought the army to seize them? It certainly is a difficult question. They are temporarily at liberty, and may be rightfully used by the military in manual labor, for wages, or otherwise. We say employ them; set them to work at digging trenches, erecting batteries. Keep them under military discipline, thus stopping at once all the horrors that will follow turning them loose upon the country, and providing for them in a manner calculated to be beneficial to the country. The decision on the immediate and pressing question in the case stated, seemingly free from Constitutional objections, is for them to be employed by the army—the only authority existing in the particular district to control them."

Another question mooted hereabouts is, to keep the negro altogether outside of our military lines. The Government is not responsible for the rebel masters deserting their slaves and letting them run loose. If the masters scorn the protection of the Constitution and the laws—take the chances of secession, and never recover their deserted, released and vagabond slaves, it is their concern, not the Government's. If they spite themselves, bite off their own noses, cut their own throats, and themselves kill Slavery, or render their slaves unserviceable and worthless, of no account or value, they cannot charge it to the Government. Unless the slaveholders are speedily enabled and induced to rise up and shake off the horrid nightmare of secession, and thus stop the secession war, their slave system may inevitably become demoralized, disintegrated, shattered, by the self-inflictions of secession, by the very presence of secession's own armies and mobs, by the constant secession hue-and-cry of Abolition in earshot of the slaves, by the masters' desertion of the slaves and the slaves' desertion of their masters, by the war, tumult and confusion, and entire absence of peace, quiet, order and security in the heart of Secessia. This disastrous suicide of rebel slavery may occur. Though the Government should not lift a finger against it; though the Government should adopt and pursue a negative, do-nothing, let-alone, hands-off policy about it until the war's close, the Government would not be answerable for this. It is not bound to protect or hold in trust, or have aught to do with the slaves of avowed, notorious and unchanegable rebels. The policy of tabooing the negro, leaving secession slavery to take care of itself, throwing upon it the responsibility for all its present and impending sufferings, coupled with the policy of protecting, so far as possible, the slave and other property of all avowed, ascertained, and would-be Unionists, may be the most expedient and efficient for ending the rebels' war, creating disaffection, sober second thoughts and reaction in the Southern mind, and restoring the Union with the consent of a reliable majority of the Southern people, and without loss or damage to their peculiar institution, other than what they will confess is chargeable to the direct inflictions of secession.

Mr. LUSK, of Garrard, and Gen. SPEED, of Louisville, have brought in bills to confiscate the property of Kentuckians joining the Confederate armies, for the benefit of the State and the reimbursement of loyal sufferers.

The House, by 59 to 11, has passed the resolution of Mr. G. M. THOMAS, of Lewis, tendering the Legislature's thanks to the men of Kentucky who have volunteered to aid and assist the Government of the United States in expelling the invaders from our soil. The Senate has concurred in this House resolution. Mr. JACONS' resolution of inquiry, why gentlemen in the House give aid and comfort to the invaders of our soil by voting No to a vote of thanks to our noble defenders, and why they should not be expelled from the House, was referred to an appropriate Committee.

The Military Board reports that, on the 30th ult., there had been 18,812 volunteers recruited, in addition to the several regiments organized prior to the appointment of the Board, and also several others in different parts of the State when the Board was organized. The aggregate of our volunteers is put at about 27,000. The State Quartermaster-General has ordered 17,000 suits of clothing and 20,000 overcoats. The Senate, by 21 to 2, has adopted the Underwood resolution, which has passed the House, authorizing an additional blanket to every Kentucky volunteer. The Board has obtained the loan of $500,000 from the Bank of Kentucky, $350,000 from the Northern Bank, $250,000 from the Farmers' Bank, $200,000 from the Bank of Louisville, $100,000 from the Commercial Bank, and $35,000 from the Bank of Ashland. The Board's expenditures have been about $1,350,000.

The test resolution, that "this Legislature do recognize the action of the Provisional Government, lately established at Russellville, Ky., by which GEORGE W. JOHNSON was made Governor of Kentucky, and that our sympathies are with them and their cause," was rejected by the House, yeas 0, nays 75. ROBERT MCKEE, of the Nashville Louisville *Courier*, (not BLANTON DUNCAN,) is dubbed our Provisional Secretary of State, and W. N. HALDEMAN, our Provisional State Printer.

Mr. BURNAM'S resolution, cordially approbating the President's recommendation for the construction of a railroad from Northern Kentucky into Eastern Tennessee and Western North Carolina, and indorsing the President's statement about its vast and permanent usefulness, has passed the House 61 to 14; and his other resolution, pledging our Legislature's coöperation with the Government in speedily carrying out the President's recommendations, passed the same body 59 to 16.

"The disaffection in East Tennessee" sorely troubles the organs of King HARRIS. They own that "nothing but summary vengeance will repress the Lincoln incendiaries of East Tennessee;" that the most consummate generalship is necessary to cope with "the formidable rebellion of the Lincolnites in East Tennessee." They fancy that Gens. GEORGE CRITTENDEN and HUMPHREY MARSHALL can conquer East Tennessee and Southeast Kentucky. Divers rumors are afloat about CRITTENDEN & Co's. strength and movements. They are drafting thousands from "the Volunteer State." Gen. SCHOEPF, commanding our forces about Somerset, if properly backed, will cope with this CRITTENDEN and all his "volunteers," and put them and even huge HUMPHREY to flight. Stirring and cheering news from this and other quarters is anxiously looked for. The East Tennesseans have held out wonderfully. They have stood up against the secession whirlwind firm and unshaken as their native hills. They are still acknowledged to be "formidable." Let them be immediately reinforced and relieved, and then secessia is cut in twain right through the spine. Gen. BUELL, in concert with Gen. HALLECK and Com. FOOTE, appears nearly ready for an irresistible advance of his whole command. His brigades, regiments, and batteries are moving Southward from his headquarters and other points. Hyatt sent the brigades of ROUSSEAU, JOHNSON and NEGLEY across Green River. He anticipates more than one severe fight before crossing into Tennessee; but he has men enough, and more are constantly coming. Ten thousand more Indianians will come in ten days. He will move with due circumspection and deliberation, and also, I trust, with sufficient rapidity and sure and complete success. Once in Tennessee, Knoxville and Nashville are his.

Would that we might celebrate New Year's in Knoxville, the 8th of January in Nashville and Memphis, and the 22d of February in New-Orleans.

PONTIAC.

BRECKINRIDGE'S RETREAT.

Correspondence of the Louisville Journal.

CAMP CALHOON, Sunday, Dec. 8, 1861.

You probably have not learned as yet what caused BRECKINRIDGE, with his four thousand rebels, to depart so suddenly from the vicinity of Rochester. He was frightened by a detachment from Col. BURBRIDGE'S Regiment under Major DAVIDSON, which he (BRECKINRIDGE) doubtless supposed was the advance guard of Gen. CRITTENDEN'S whole force. Major DAVIDSON reached Ceralvo on the 22d of November, and on the 23d BRECKINRIDGE sent about one hundred men down the river six miles to Paradise, for the purpose of robbing the Union men in that vicinity. Our gallant Major becoming apprised of this fact sent Capt. NETTER with a small force to the aforesaid place, when he completly routed them, killing one man and wounded several others. Before Capt. NETTER reached the scene of action they crossed the river, robbed the house of a Mr. WISE, taking forty dollars in money, a gold watch, all of his bed-clothes, and in short everything portable, finally winding up the transaction by tearing down his fences and driving his stock in his cornfield.

The rebels have been carrying out of the State a large amount of provisions of late on the Memphis Branch Railroad, and it has been thought advisable by the friends of the Government to put a stop to it, consequently Capt. NETTER, of Col. BURBRIDGE'S Regiment, was detailed, with forty men, to destroy the bridge across Whippoorwill, at Ferguson Station, seven miles southwest of Russellville, in the very heart of secession. Men were detailed from the companies of Capts. NETTER, PAGE, and BELT—brave, tried, and true men. They reached the bridge Thursday morning, about daylight, and surrounded the pickets. Capt. NETTER ordered them to surrender, at the same time telling them resistance would be useless; but they fired upon our men immediately. Our men returned the fire vigorously, killing two men and wounding a third mortally. They then returned, in good order, to camp, bringing in nine prisoners. Sergeant GRABLE and privates CARTRIGHT and ARMSTRONG, of Capt. PAGE'S company, were wounded severely, though not mortally. Also, privates EVERLY and MAHAN—the former of Capt. BELT'S, and the latter of Capt. NETTER'S company.

The fight at Woodbury and the skirmishes of Capt. NETTER at Morgantown, Rochester, Paradise, and Ferguson's Station, is but an earnest of what Col. BURBRIDGE and his gallant men will do before the close of the rebellion. SPECTATOR.

The Louisville *Baptist* learns that a factory has just been established in Claiborne parish in that State, between Mount Lebanon and Homer, for the manufacture of corn-shellers, wheat, fans, spinning-wheels, looms and many other similar articles that are largely used in the country now, and the demand for which will be still further increased hereafter. This is the way to make the country really independent.

MONETARY AFFAIRS.

Sales at the Stock Exchange....DEC. 16, 1861.

$5,000	U. S. 6s, '81. Reg.	88	50	Hud. Riv. R.	34⅛
6,000	do	87	10	do	33½
5,000	U. S. 6s, '74 Cou.	80	525	do	34
1,000	Ten. State 6s, '90	40½	50	do	34½
1,000	do	40¾	300	Harlem R. Pref.	35
5,000	Missouri State 6s	39	10	Nor. & Wor. R.	35
5,000	do	38	400	Reading R.	32
17,000	do	37⅛	100	do	31⅝
1,000	do	37⅝	200	do	31¾
1,000	do	37¼	25	Mich. Cen. R.	45⅜
20,000	do	37½	50	do	45
10,000	do	37⅝	250	do	44
5,000	Cal. State 7s	80¾	650	do	43½
10,000	N. Y. Central 6s	91	200	do	43½
3,000	M. Cen. 8 ct. 1st M. S. F. Con. Bs.	90½	220	do	43¼
2,000	N. Ia. 1st Mtge.	83	10	Mich So. & N. I. R.	16
1,000	Chi. & N. W. 1st M.	38½	115	do	16⅜
1,000	do	38	200	do	16¾
2,000	Clev. & Tol. S. F. B.	77½	50	Mich. So. & N. I. G. S.	36
50	Mechanics' Bank	90	50	do	37
100	Canton Company	9¾	400	do	36¾
6	Del. & Hud. Can. Co.	82½	50	do	36⅝
100	Pacific Mail S. Co.	80½	40	Panama Railroad	109
50	do	79¾	125	do	108
665	do	80	20	Ill. Cen. R. Scrip	56¾
70	Mil. & P. Du Cien R.	17¾	25	do	56⅝
50	do	17	420	do	56¾
840	N. Y. Cen. R.	75½	400	do	56⅞
350	do	10 75½	100	Cleve. & Pitts. R.	12
200	do	75¾	67	Clev., Col. & Cin. R.	100
100	do	30 75¾	100	Gal. & Chic. R.	67
100	do	75¾	25	do	68
450	do	75¾	10	do	67¾
100	do	15 76	100	do	67⅞
50	do	15 75½	50	do	5 67⅞
50	do	15 75¾	750	Clev. & Tol. R.	29
350	Erie R.	27	1150	do	29¼
926	do	26⅜	200	do	10 29¼
200	do	26½	100	do	30 29
200	do	26¼	250	Chic. & R. I. R.	opg 46⅜
100	do	10 26⅜	250	do	opg 46¾
150	Erie R. Pref.	46⅜	150	do	p&c 46¾
400	do	46½	250	do	p&c 46⅝
50	do	30 46⅜	250	do	opg 46⅝
270	do	47	50	do	10 46⅜
125	Harlem R.	10½	100	Chic., Burl. & Q. R.	53
250	do	10¼	100	do	52

SECOND BOARD.

$10,000	U. S. 6s, '81. Cou.	90¾	15	Mich. So. & N. I. R.	17
8,000	U. S. 5s, '65	86⅛	10	Erie R. Pref.	47½
14,000	Missouri State 6s	38	125	do	47¾
1,000	Virgina State 6s.	46	100	do	48
2,000	N. Y. Cen. R. 7s.	101	50	do	10 47½
4,000	Mich. Cen. 8 ct. I. M. S. F. Con. Bs.	91	50	Clev. & Pitts. R.	12
6	Pac. Mail. St. Co.	81	50	Clev., Col. & Cin. R.	100
100	do	82	200	Harlem Railroad	10½
50	do	30 82	100	do	10
25	Michigan Cen. R.	44	100	Harlem R. Pref.	26
50	N. Y. Cen. R.	76¾	100	Panama Railroad	108
50	do	1 76⅝	100	do	108⅜
50	do	30 76⅝	150	Galena & Chic. R.	68⅛
50	do	30 76¾	400	Clev. & Toledo R.	29¾
50	do	50 76¾	50	do	29½
50	do	50 76⅝	100	do	30 29½
50	do	10 76¾	100	do	29⅝
10	Erie Railway	27	250	Chic. & R. I. R.	47⅛
300	do	26¾	100	do	47
25	do	26⅜	100	do	46⅞
250	do	26½	63	Mil. & P. Du Ch. R.	17

MONDAY, Dec. 16—P. M.

The Weekly Averages of the Banks of the City of New-York, on Saturday, Dec. 14, 1861, present in the aggregate the following changes from the previous exhibit of Dec. 7:

Decrease in Loans	$2,146,251
Decrease in Specie	2,883,132
Decrease in Circulation	235,966
Decrease in Undrawn Deposits	4,239,242

Including the Clearing-house operations of the week, which show the inter-exchanges between the Banks, and including also the Sub-Treasury Specie Average of the week, the following is the general comparison with the previous exhibit, and also with the movement this time last season:

	Dec. 15, 1860.	Dec. 14, 1861.	Dec. 7. 1861.
Capital	$69,158,000	$69,050,000	$69,050,000
Loans	131,740,172	157,647,702	159,793,953
Specie	18,348,398	39,435,478	42,318,610
Circulation	8,675,793	8,590,764	8,826,730
Gross Deposits	100,932,066	148,496,604	153,470,757
Exchanged	17,717,672	19,117,059	19,851,970
Undrawn	83,214,394	129,379,545	133,618,787
In Sub-Treasury	2,563,639	8,093,911	6,539,829

The Bank return shows a larger withdrawal of Specie from Bank by $500,000 or $600,000 than anticipated. The stock of Bullion in Bank and Sub-Treasury is $1,329,000 less than on Monday last. The general impression, since the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, that the basis of currency must undergo an early change, has no doubt had its practical influence, not only on the rates of Foreign Exchange, but on the quiet withdrawal of Bullion from the Banks. The terms for Foreign Exchange to-day have been greatly unsettled, and the actual sales on London at 110¼@111 per cent., *presupposes an immediate suspension of payments at Bank in Specie*, as the sales to-day are to be settled in currency on Wednesday next, the day of sailing of the Cunard steamer. The market for Money is also somewhat unsettled to-day by the English news, though no higher rates of interest are demanded, where the security and margin upon new loans are made satisfactory.

The English news in the morning papers took the Street rather by surprise. The excitement in England, and the reported instructions to the British Minister at Washington, were construed as much more serious than the first response to the affair of the *Trent* indicated. The consequence on the Stock market was a general fall of about *three per cent.*, and a depreciation in several instances of 5@6 ₱ cent., such as Erie Common and Erie Preference Shares, as compared with the last sales of Saturday. Taking New-York Central as the barometer of the Share-list, the early decline was from 78½ ₱ cent., as on Saturday afternoon to 75¾ ₱ cent., and the subsequent recovery was from 75¾ to 77 ₱ cent., the price finally closing 76¾ ₱ cent., or 1¾ ₱ cent. below the last price of Saturday. The Federal Securities fell 2 ₱ cent.; Missouris, 3 ₱ cent. The Western Shares fell from 3 to 5 ₱ cent., and were feverish and irregular throughout the day, though finally closing 47½ for Rock Island, 29¾ for Toledo, and 69¾ for Galena. A heavy fall took place in Pacific Mail, 7@8 ₱ cent. in the morning, of which 2@3 ₱ cent. was recovered at the close. The decline is 6 ₱ cent. in Panama Shares.

The English news, besides affecting the market, creates much discussion on the Street. The prevailing impression is that no War will grow out of the *Trent* affair; certainly not unless England really desires to make the question the pretext for hostilities, *in which event no backing down will be manifested in Wall-street*, either on the Merchants' or the Stock Exchange, however great the cost and sacrifices of the War. On the other hand, no objection is made to an honorable explanation, and if our Government be found in the wrong, all proper apology, *but under no compulsion*. The opinion also obtained that the belligerent nature of the instructions sent out to the British Minister at Washington are greatly exaggerated by the London Press, as quoted in the summary of this morning's news.

No general meeting of the Associated Banks was held to-day. As no large drafts for Specie are being made on their vaults, and no considerable sums engaged for Wednesday's Cunarder, the question of the early suspension of Specie payments is held in abeyance. The prevailing belief is that it cannot be long postponed, without materially diminishing the sum total of Bullion in the Banks and Sub-Treasury, upon which the suspension will ultimately take place.

The Custom-house returns of the Foreign Trade of the port of New-York, for the month of November, have at length been completed, and we are now enabled to bring up our tables to the close of that month, completing eleven months of the calendar year 1861:

The Import Entries of Foreign Merchandise, at New-York, during the month of November, 1861, were:

In Dutiable Goods, consumption direct	$4,614,982
In Dutiable Goods, bonded	2,150,582
In Free Goods	1,964,644
Total Foreign Merchandise	$8,740,188
Against November, 1860	14,974,358
Decrease this season	$6,234,170

There was also entered during the month Foreign Gold and Silver of the value of $908,825, against $446,798 the same month last year. The amount of goods of the previous importation withdrawn from Bonded Warehouse is $1,987,626, or $162,935 less than went into bond during the month; so that the total amount of foreign goods actually marketed in November is $8,577,253, against $12,610,007 marketed same month last season.

The Exports from New-York for the month of November, 1861, were:

In Domestic Produce	$14,109,763
Foreign Goods Reëxported	419,143
Specie	48,385
Total	$14,577,291
Against November, 1860:	
In Domestic Produce	$11,262,701
Foreign Goods reëxported	484,385
Specie	525,091—12,272,177
Increase this season	$2,305,114

We annex our usual summary by months of the Trade of the past eleven months of the calendar year, comparing with the previous year:

IMPORT OF FOREIGN GOODS AT NEW-YORK.

	1861. From Jan. 1.	vs.	1860. From Jan. 1.
January	19,565,000		21,528,000
February	14,068,000		19,166,000
March	12,658,000		23,495,000
April	12,

The New-York Times.

NEW-YORK, TUESDAY, DEC. 17, 1861.

Amusements this Evening.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—ZAMPILLA ROSTATION—L'OGRE OR LE PETIT JEAN.

WALLACK'S THEATRE—THE MAGIC MARRIAGE—HE'S NOT A MISS.

WINTER GARDEN—ROBY O'MOORE—LAW FOR LADIES—BARNEY THE BARON.

LAURA KEENE'S THEATRE—THE SEVEN SONS.

BOWERY THEATRE—GREAT NATIONAL CIRCUS.

HOPE CHAPEL—CAPT. WILLIAMS' SOUTH SEA WHALING VOYAGE.

BARNUM'S MUSEUM—LIVING HIPPOPOTAMUS, LIVING WHALE, &c., AT ALL HOURS—DRAMATIC PERFORMANCES AT 3½ AND 7½ O'CLOCK.

THE WONDERS OF THE WORLD—No. 563 Broadway

EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS—FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE POOR—No. 548 Broadway.

SCHAUS' GALLERY—No. 749 Broadway—GIGNOUX'S INDIAN SUMMER IN VIRGINIA.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

THE REBELLION.

The United States steamer transport *Constitution*, Capt. A. T. FLETCHER, arrived at Fortress Monroe on Sunday afternoon, where she called for orders, on her return from Ship Island, Mississippi Sound, having safely landed at the latter place, Dec. 4, the two regiments, (Twenty-sixth Massachusetts, and Ninth Connecticut,) which embarked on her at Boston, the 18th and 21st of November. In this southward expedition, after proceeding to Portland for the Twelfth Regiment of Maine, which did not embark on her, the *Constitution* proceeded to Fortress Monroe, Nov. 23, where she arrived on the 26th. She coaled, and left on the 28th, and, after a very pleasant passage, arrived at Ship Island, Mississippi Sound, Dec. 3. Her arrival here was as gratifying as it was unexpected by the little fleet and small garrison which have been holding the place against constant threats, and occasional attacks from the rebels. By the assistance of two large river steamers, which had been captured in Mississippi Sound only a short time previous to her arrival, the troops and material of war, and subsistence stores, were landed between the 4th and 8th of December—a single accident only occurring, by which one of the steel rifled guns belonging to Capt. MANNING'S Light Battery was lost overboard. The two regiments were comfortably encamped on the island, near the lighthouse, and the Salem Battery near the fortification. On the 8th the last of the cargo was landed on the beach, and was taken charge of by Commissary BUTLER, brother of Maj.-Gen. BUTLER, who will probably join the expedition in a short time with a large accession to the force. The *Constitution* left at Ship Island her splendid rifled long-range guns, and also six fine life-boats, of the Francis and Raymond patterns, for the use of the command. During the day on which the *Constitution* sailed from Ship Island, a naval engagement took place within sight, and quite near the island, between the United States gunboat *New-London* and the steamer *De Soto*, and two rebel armed vessels—the *Pamlico* and *California*—which were attempting to run the gauntlet from New-Orleans to Mobile. "Nobody was hurt" on either side. The *Constitution* sailed from Ship Island Saturday, Dec. 7, at 5 P. M., and arrived at Key West on the 9th, where she put in to obtain coal, but not being able to obtain it there with dispatch she proceeded to Havana, arriving on the 10th. Here she coaled, and again left on the 12th, at 8 o'clock A. M., and arrived at Fortress Monroe on Sunday, at 3½ o'clock P. M. Two hundred tons of coal would be put on board, and she would sail on Monday for Boston, where she will be due on Wednesday.

We learn from Washington that two important reconnoissances took place yesterday—one towards Vienna and the other towards Fairfax Court-house. At Vienna no rebels were discovered, but near Fairfax Court-house the rebel pickets were encountered and driven in. No considerable bodies of the enemy were found.

A report reaches us, in a roundabout way, that an engagement has taken place between the *Iroquois* and the pirate *Sumter*, but there is probably very little truth in it.

The Montreal *Advertiser* states that the Canadian military authorities have engaged the Grand Trunk workshops at Point St. Charles, for the purpose of rifling heavy ordnance. It also states that the British Government has given the necessary notice to the different companies carrying the mails under Imperial subsides, to prepare to receive the armament they are bound to carry in time of war. This latter statement is very doubtful.

It is asserted by the old Louisville *Courier*, now published at Bowling Green, that PARSON BROWNLOW was arrested at Knoxville on the 6th inst., for treason against the Southern Confederacy, and committed to prison. This news is confirmed by a statement in the Knoxville *Register*, which gives currency to a rumor that the rebel War Department had given orders for BROWNLOW'S safe conduct to the North.

The Leavenworth, Kansas, *Times* of Dec. 12, publishes an order issued by Gen. DENVER, putting Kansas City under the charge of Major CLOUD, Second Kansas Volunteers, as Provost-Marshal. The object of this step is declared in the concluding paragraph of the order, which says: "It is not the intention or desire of the General commanding the 'troops in Kansas' to interfere with, or in any way annoy the citizens of this place, in the lawful pursuit of their business or pleasure; but he is determined that the outrages which have lately disgraced this city shall cease, and order be maintained."

Col. GRAHAM, of the New Mexican Regiment, has recruited five companies, which have already rendezvoused at Fort Levenworth.

Col. CANBY, in command of the Department of New-Mexico, has issued orders, dated Santa Fé, Nov. 15, dividing the Territory into six districts, over which a commander is to be appointed, specially charged with protecting the inhabitants from outrages by the Indians. The most stringent regulations are prescribed to prevent arms or warlike munitions of any kind from being sent to hostile Indians, by those who may sympathize with them.

A copy of the North Carolina *Standard* of the 4th inst., has been received in Chicago, which announces that a regiment of National troops had taken possession of Portsmouth in that State, and that there was a fleet of ten National steamers in Pamlico Sound. The *Standard* appears to have this news exclusively.

The United States steamer *Dacotah*, commander JAMES P. MCKINSTRY, from Hong-Kong *viâ* St. Thomas, arrived at this port yesterday afternoon. The United States gunboat *Iroquois* was at St. Thomas on the 3d; also the ship *Montmorenci*, of Bath, Me., with coal, from Liverpool. The captain of the *Montmorenci* reported having been boarded by the privateer *Sumter*. After taking his nautical instruments, the pirates allowed him to proceed on his course.

CONGRESS YESTERDAY.

In the Senate, a number of petitions touching upon the Slavery question were presented. Mr. TEN EYCK, of New-York, offered a resolution against radicalism in any sense, which was laid over. The Committee on Military Affairs, on motion of Mr. HALE, of New-Hampshire, was instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing a uniform manner in which to deal with the slaves of rebels. The Committee on the Judiciary were instructed to prepare a law to prevent the aiders and abettors of treason from bringing suits for the collection of debts in the United States Courts. Mr. WILKINSON, of Minnesota, offered a preamble and resolution for the expulsion of Senator BRIGHT, of Indiana. Mr. BRIGHT made a brief speech, denying the truth of the charges brought against him, and the subject was referred to the Judiciary Committee. The resolution making inquiries of the Secretary of State in reference to the suspension of the writ of *habeas corpus*, presented by Mr. TRUMBULL, of Illinois, was then called up by that gentleman, and was discussed during the rest of the session. It was finally referred to the Judiciary Committee, 25 to 17, and the Senate, after an Executive Session, adjourned.

In the House, the difficulty between Messrs. CONWAY, of Kansas, and FOUKE, of Illinois, commenced on Thursday last, in reference to the Battle of Belmont, was renewed, and terminated in a direct quarrel, which is likely to lead to a duel. A bill was passed which strikes from the pension roll the names of all persons who have taken up arms against the Government, or in any manner aided the rebellion. Mr. VALLANDIGHAM, of Ohio, introduced a preamble and resolution in reference to the *Trent* affair, sustaining the Government in its approval of the conduct of Capt. WILKES in seizing MASON and SLIDELL, and pledging Congress to support the President in maintaining a war with England. The resolution, after considerable debate, was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations, 109 to 16. Mr. VALLANDIGHAM was anxious to press an immediate vote, but he was not gratified. The consideration of the bill, authorizing the raising of a volunteer force in Kentucky, was then resumed, and it was passed after a long debate. The House voted to adjourn from Thursday to the 6th of January, should the Senate concur.

GENERAL NEWS.

The steamship *Champion*, from Aspinwall, with specie from California to the amount of $979,000, arrived here yesterday. She reports that when in lat. 31° 30′, lon. 76°, she was chased for an hour by a propeller, supposed to be a privateer, which finally hoisted the English colors; but the propeller did not succeed in overtaking the treasureship. From South America, we learn that Gen. MITRE, of Buenos Ayres, had gained a victory over URQUIZA, the commander of the forces of the Argentine Confederation, and had taken a large number of prisoners and munitions of war, and occupied Rosario. The late massacre at La Paz, Bolivia, is said to have been instigated by Gen. FERNANDEZ, who is plotting to be President. Dr. CORPANCHO is on his way to Washington as Peruvian Minister. From Bogota (United States of Colombia,) we learn that the church difficulties had reached a climax, and MOSQUERA had cut the gordion knot by exiling the Archbishop and the refractory monastic crew. The civil difficulties also continue, with a prospect of peace. From other points there is nothing of great importance.

The screw steamer *Glasgow*, Capt. MCGUIGAN, which sailed from Liverpool on the 27th, at 1 P. M., and from Queenstown on the 28th ultimo, arrived here last evening. Her advices have been anticipated.

The Madrid *Epoca*, a semi-official organ, in reply to some remarks in an Opposition journal, declares that the Spanish Government, in intervening in Mexico, does not intend to support the pretensions of MIRAMON, MARQUEZ and SANTA ANNA, but means to allow the Mexican people to give themselves a Government in conformity with their traditions and wants.

Gov. SANBORN, of Minnesota, has issued a circular explaining the system which he has followed in the appointment of officers. Except in cases where the commanding officer may testify that the appointees are incompetent, promotions have been made as if each regiment and company were a separate military organization, and this is the plan which is to be followed hereafter.

Mr. P. B. EWING writes to the Cincinnati *Commercial*, under date of Lancaster, Ohio, Dec. 12, denying in the most emphatic terms that Gen. W. T. SHERMAN is insane. He states that he never telegraphed, wrote or suggested the idea of evacuating Kentucky, and that, as he was never in command of a brigade at Sedalia, no subordinate could have refused to obey orders alleged to be absurd. He has simply gone to visit his family, in order to obtain the recreation which incessant labor has rendered necessary.

On Friday morning several large mortars and car loads of bombshells passed through Philadelphia over the Pennsylvania Railroad, to be used on the "mortar fleet," which it is supposed will soon open up the navigation of the Lower Potomac. These mortars and shells were cast at the Fort Pitt works, Pittsburgh, and are formidable weapons of war.

A floating derrick has been sent to Hatteras Inlet to attempt the recovery of the guns thrown overboard from the *Harriet Lane* after the surrender of the rebel forts at that point.

The Fourth and Fifth Regiment, Irish Brigade, Cols. BAKER and MEAGHER, left Fort Schuyler yesterday, where they have been quartered for some time past, for the seat of war. Previous to the departure, the regiments paraded through the City, and were greated with every manifestation of delight by a large concourse of people. Col. MEAGHER, who is Acting Brigadier-General, accompanied the regiments to Washington.

In the Board of Aldermen, last evening, a communication was received from the Mayor, and referred, relative to the harbor defences of the City, and recommending immediate measures for strengthening the same. The hospitalities of the City were tendered to Col. MULLIGAN, together with the use of the Governor's room for a public reception. The Comptroller's weekly statement gives the receipts into the Treasury, for the past week, to be $293,610 42; payments, $500,507 88; balance on hand Dec. 14, $3,773,841 89. An appropriation of $30,000 was made to the Hebrew Benevolent Society.

The Board of Councilmen held their regular meeting, when a series of resolutions contemplating the arming and organizing the militia, &c., offered by Mr. LENT, were adopted. $2,000 were appropriated for full-length portraits of Ex-Govs. SEYMOUR and CLARK. The hospitalities of the City were tendered to Col. MULLIGAN. The Mayor sent in an interesting and important communication on the subject of the defences of the City, which was ordered printed. The Board adjourned at 6½ P. M., there being a screw loose somewhere, preventing the proper working of the machine, as was developed in a resolution to make the DAILY TIMES a Corporation paper, but which was laid over.

At Chambers of the Supreme Court Justice LEONARD yesterday granted a motion to dismiss the complaint in 66 of the liquor cases, they not having been regularly and legally commenced. At Special Term of the Court, before Justice INGRAHAM, the Accessory Transit Company case is on trial, and still pending. The case is familiar.

The Stock Market declined yesterday on the English news 3 ₩ cent. on the general list, and in some instances 5@7 ₩ cent. Late in the day part of the decline was recovered. New-York Central closed 76¾, as against 78½ on Saturday afternoon. The Foreign Exchanges were unsettled by the news, and also by the prevailing belief that the Banks will suspend their payments in Specie in the course of the week. Bills on London sold as high as 110½@111 ₩ cent.

The discussion of the news from England was the chief employment of business men yesterday. At the Produce Exchange, transactions in Breadstuffs and Provisions were restricted; prices, however, were well supported, generally, and Wheat and Corn were quoted somewhat higher. The Cotton market was much excited; very high prices were claimed, and sales of 900 bales transpired within a range of from 36@40c. for Middlings, ₩ lb. Holders of Sugars and Coffee were asking advanced rates, but buyers purchased sparingly. Saltpetre, Nitrate Soda, Gunpowder, Lead and Shot were not offered freely, and were quoted much dearer. No important sales, however, were reported. The demand for Spirits Turpentine was good, and the article advanced to $1 45@$1 50 ₩ gallon. The freight engagements were more extensive at low figures by American, and very full rates by foreign vessels. Other branches of trade presented no remarkable alteration.

OUR MINISTER IN JAPAN.—Mr. R. H. PRUYN, the new Minister Resident to Japan, will probably leave this City for his destination by way of San Francisco, on or about 21st inst. It is expected that Mr. HARRIS will await the arrival of his successor before leaving Yeddo. It has already been stated that Mr. HARRIS, through the American Consuls in China, had provided the Japanese Navy with two fine American-built ships. Another evidence of the confidence reposed by the Government in the American Minister, is found in the fact that recently, upon his recommendation, two agents—Messrs. BLAKE, of California, and PUMPELLY, of New-York—have been appointed to make a mineralogical survey of the Island of Yesso, the mines of which Island are supposed to be very rich. The two agents receive each a salary of $5,000 per annum, with an allowance of $2,000 for instruments. Mr. HARRIS has also forwarded orders to San Francisco for a splendid carriage for Government use, and a number of drays for the public service.

Our Relations with England—The Affair of the Trent.

We shall have the *Europa's* mails to-morrow, and then, perhaps, we can test a little more accurately the precise import and value of the news which yesterday threw Wall-street into such a paroxysm of alarm, and created so much excitement in the City at large. Meantime it may give us somewhat more of peace for the intervening day, to reflect that *nine-tenths* of the European bluster and menace which filled our newspapers yesterday morning, was the work of the excited English Press, and not at all the utterance of the English Government. Indeed the only official intelligence we have on the subject is, that England has instructed her minister here to demand an apology and reparation for the insult offered to the British flag in the affair of the *Trent*.

We have no warrant for the belief that this demand is to be made with abruptness,—that it is to be enforced by menace, or that in making it there will be any departure from the ordinary courtesy and forbearance of diplomatic intercourse. Still less have we any reason to suppose that England seeks a war with this country, or that she will intentionally place our Government in such a position that war cannot be averted without national dishonor or humiliation. It is perfectly safe to assume that the demand will be made without insult,—that the grounds on which it rests will be clearly and calmly set forth, and that proper audience will be given to whatever representations our Government may deem it necessary to make in reply.

We have called attention to the fact that the complaint of the British Government does not rest upon any denial of our right to *visit* and *search* her ships for contraband of war, but upon the fact that Capt. WILKES chose to *execute on the spot what he believed to be the law*, instead of taking the vessel into port and submitting the case to the action of duly authorized courts of law. The London *Times* gives this as the opinion of the law-officers of the crown, that "the right of the Federal Government, acting by its officers, was *confined to the visiting and the searching of the mail packet*—that if any men or things believed to be contraband of war had been found on board of her, the proper course was to *take her into port and submit the question to the Prize Court*, which would hear evidence and argument on both sides, and *would have decided the case according to precedent and authorities.*" If this be so, then the demand of the British Government will be confined to this irregularity in the mode of proceeding which Capt. WILKES adopted. Our Government will not be required to disavow the act of visitation and search, but only the neglect of Capt. WILKES to bring the *Trent* into port and to submit the question to the Prize Court.

We are free to confess that this view of the case seems to us essentially just. The duty of the Commander of a war vessel at sea is analagous to that of a Police-officer on shore. It is simply to detect and arrest suspected offenders against the law of nations, and hand them over to the appointed tribunals. A Police-officer arrests a suspected thief,—but he does not try the question of his guilt,—still less does he execute sentence on the spot. He hands him over to the Courts of law, and there his responsibility ends. A naval officer at sea is in a position precisely similar. He may visit and search a vessel suspected of carrying contraband of war,—and if he sees reason for so doing, he may arrest her and hold her for trial. But he cannot try the case on the spot. Nice questions frequently arise in such cases as to what is contraband, &c., and these belong exclusively to the Courts of law. If Capt. WILKES had found the *Trent* filled with guns and ammunition destined for the rebel States, he would have had no right to take out her cargo, and let her go. His duty would have been to arrest her, and hand her over to the Prize Courts, which are created expressly for such a purpose. And in the actual case of the *Trent*, his duty was doubtless precisely the same. There were some very delicate questions connected with it,—both of law and of fact—and it was scarcely competent for Capt. WILKES to decide upon them, and execute his decision without Court, or witnesses, or legal formality of any kind. The Law Officers of the Crown are probably, therefore, correct in saying that it was the right of the British Government to have the *Trent* taken into port, and the whole question submitted to the adjudication of the proper Court; and if our Government should see the subject in the same light, we presume they will have not the slightest difficulty in making whatever acknowledgment of error the case may require.

The matter of reparation is attended with more difficulty. The alleged wrong consists in taking MASON and SLIDELL from the protection of the British flag by simple force, and without that process of law to which, by virtue of that protection, they were entitled. The remedy, (if the wrong be admitted,) would consist in placing them back precisely where they were,—not under the full and unquestioned protection of the British flag, but with that flag, *under arrest and awaiting trial.* This, however, has now become impracticable. The question can no longer be acted upon judicially,—it must be settled by diplomacy. The two Governments, by argument and agreement, must decide the points of law which would have been submitted to the Prize Court had the ordinary course been pursued,—*or else they must submit them to the decision of some commo" arbiter*,—a mixed commission, a mediatin g Sovereign, or whatever other authority may be agreed upon.

Meantime, what shall be done with MASON and SLIDELL? They have clearly no claim to a full release, for if the course prescribed by the Law Officers of the Crown had been pursued they would still have been under arrest. But they may very well be released on parole, or handed over to the custody of the British Government, with the understanding that they shall abide by the decision of the selected tribunal upon the legality or illegality of their presence on the *Trent*. If that tribunal decides that they were *quasi* contraband of war, then they become subject to *quasi* confiscation, and may be remanded to the custody of the United States. If the decision is the other way, then they will become entitled to a full discharge, precisely as they would have done if the decision of a Prize Court had been in their favor.

We make these suggestions on the assumption that the American people do not desire a war with England—that none but Secessionists and those who sympathize with them, are disposed to a needless rupture of our friendly relations with any foreign Power—and that every loyal, reflecting, patriotic citizen will cordially assent to any action on the part of the Government which shall avert a war, without any derogation of our national dignity, or any surrender of national honor. We believe this assumption to be perfectly true. In direct opposition to the impression of the British Press, and to the suspicions of British public men we do not believe there is any, the least, desire on the part of our people for a war with Great Britain.

And we find a striking confirmation of this belief in the proceedings of Congress, yesterday, upon this very subject. Mr. VALLANDIGHAM, of Ohio,—an open sympathizer with secession, a man who, up to the very last moment, when it could be done without making himself amenable to the law of treason, vindicated the action of the rebels and defended their cause on the floor of Congress, offered a resolution intended avowedly to close the door to conciliation on this very subject. He did it in the language of a demagogue and in the spirit of a rebel. And the House put its foot very effectually upon the firebrand which he thus threw into it, by sending his resolution to the Committee on Foreign Affairs by the decisive vote of 106 to 16. We are not surprised to learn that the President's views on this subject are decidedly averse to any rupture which can be avoided with honor;—and in this position we are confident he will be fully sustained by Congress and the country.

The Expedition to Ship Island.

Much of our space in the present issue is surrendered to accounts, furnished by our own Reporter, of the voyage of Gen. PHELPS' brigade, and its landing at Ship Island, near the mouths of the Mississippi. The expedition seems to have run an uneventful course. Without detention by the way, after leaving Fortress Monroe, the steamer that bore the troops proceeded to its destination, where the little army effected an undisputed landing. Ship Island was found to be provided with a fortification, erected by marines detached from the blockading squadron. A certain number of heavy guns were in position, while others were daily expected from Fort Pickens, where Col. BROWN has, it seems, discovered himself to be in possession of more gun-metal than the leaguer of Gen. BRAGG seems to require. The troops, at the departure of our correspondent, were settled contentedly in their quarters, their only solicitude relating to the exact period when they should be called to those active operations of which Ship Island is no more than the radiating centre.

The occupation of this post in force is the completion of another link in that chain whereby rebellion is presently to be strangled. A glance at the map shows how rapidly this cordon is finishing. Fortress Monroe, Hatteras Inlet, Beaufort, Hilton Head, Tybee Island, Key West, Fort Pickens, Ship Island—these are so many footholds upon the soil of the South from which other steps may hereafter be made toward the interior. The strategic importance of these acquisitions can hardly be exaggerated. From the protection of Ship Island, the gunboats that shall more securely close coastwise communication, and bar the departure of small craft to the Antilles, can be dispatched at pleasure and in safety; while at the proper time powerful expeditions can be transmitted to the mainland, or sent to the assault of Fort Morgan, below Mobile, and Forts St. Philip and Jackson, below New-Orleans. Such a *point d'appui* is essential to the extensive operations by which the two principal ports of the Gulf will be ultimately captured. Its occupation by a force abundantly able to hold it against the strongest demonstrations of the enemy, is therefore an important fact in the story of the war.

The proclamation issued by Gen. PHELPS, in reaching the Louisiana coast, will be subjected to severe criticism. That officer, declining to be guided by similar documents promulgated by leaders of preceding expeditions into rebel territory, has announced his mission to be the substitution by force of free for slave labor; and has justified his convictions of duty by constitutional discussions and historical precedents, curiously out of place in a military announcement. To say that the allusion to the Church of France in connection with the French Revolution is at once unfortunate and inaccurate, is perhaps needless. But certainly in no act of Congress, in no orders from the War Department, nor in the practice of the Government in its conduct of the war thus far, could Gen. PHELPS find authority for the line of policy he prescribes for himself; and he can hardly plead the absence of explicit instructions, as justifying this extreme license of interpretation. The war, be must be aware, is not made for the objects which he names. He misrepresents the aims of the Government, precisely as the most malignant Secessionist of the South misrepresents them: a coincidence which cannot but be productive of mischievous and embarrassing results. Locally, the proclamation will fall harmless. It is hardly likely to make its way beyond the unpeopled islands of the neighborhood. But wherever it does go, it is likely to do the Union cause more harm than good.

FOUKE AND CONWAY—DISGRACEFUL SCENES IN CONGRESS.—The disgraceful quarrel which commenced on Friday last, in the House of Representatives, between two Western members, Mr. FOUKE, of Illinois, and Mr. CONWAY, of Kansas, was, after an interim of three days, resumed yesterday. Epithets, the like of which were never heard in any other deliberative assembly in the world but our National Congress—such as "blackguard and scoundrel," "a disgrace to the nation and humanity," etc., were again bandied between the members. And yet, up to the hour of adjournment, neither of the parties had been either censured or expelled from the House, nor had any action been taken which looked in these directions. The quarrel, too, was left yesterday in as unsettled a state as it was left on Friday. So we shall probably have it up again and again, until the billingsgate vocabulary is worn out, or the belligerents resort to another field to settle their contemptible dispute.

The quarrel, like quarrels generally, had its origin from a mistaken remark with a general application from one party, and a special application of the remark, and a hasty retort, by another party. Mr. CONWAY, it seems, said that in no engagement of this war, so far, had the National arms achieved a victory, and, among other battles, characterized that of Belmont as a defeat. Mr. FOUKE, who bore a prominent and gallant part in that hard-fought engagement, at once denied that it was a defeat, and in doing so, coarsely said that he "wanted to nail the falsehood." Then came the usual demand if that remark was personal, followed by the usual suggestion from a third party that the dispute should be settled elsewhere. But Mr. FOUKE had left the House previous to Mr. CONWAY'S demand, so the quarrel was neither settled there nor elsewhere at that time. Mr. CONWAY yesterday repeated his demand; and, getting an unsatisfactory response from Mr. FOUKE, he passionately characterized his adversary, and his adversary vehemently characterized him, in the style already mentioned. And Mr. RICHARDSON again gave both parties his advice to settle their dispute elsewhere. All of which proceedings produced only a "sensation" in the House, and cries of "Order" from the members.

It was the part of Congress, however, to have settled the affair for these gentlemen, or at least, settled it so far as the halls of Congress were concerned, on the spot. These men had no right to disgrace the nation and Congress and their constituents and themselves, and particularly at such a time as this too, by such an exhibition on that floor. And Congress had no right to take the insult upon its self-respect without adopting prompt and decisive measures to punish it and prevent its repetition.

Report of the Sanitary Commission.

The Sanitary Commission has just issued a circular, stating the general objects and results of its organization, and appealing for additional contributions for their prosecution. The financial statement shows that they have received over $28,000 in money, of which, according to the latest report, about $18,000 have been expended in salaries and traveling expenses, printing, hospital supplies, &c., the latter item, including nurses, amounting to $2,596. The amount still on hand is about $10,000,—the monthly expenses of the Commission averaging about $5,000 a month,—"a trifle," as the report justly says, "compared with what the private charity of the country can afford to contribute toward saving the lives of our soldiers,"—and a trifle, it might have been added, compared with what it *will* contribute, if satisfied that the process is at once the most effective and economical. Of the amount thus far contributed, one-third has been derived from various Life Insurance Companies, one of these institutions having given the munificent donation of $4,000, another $3,000, and three others $1,000 each.

The working staff of the Commission till recently consisted of six Inspectors. The number is now increased to fifteen, most of whom are physicians. The duty of these Inspectors is twofold. First, they "travel from camp to camp pointing out defects and suggesting improvements in camp police, ventilation of tents and quarters, drainage, camp-cooking, the supply and quality of water, and generally in everything that bears on the health of the command." Secondly, they are to "give officers in charge of military hospitals not only professional aid, if desired, but extra hospital clothing, food, medicines, vaccine virus, and stores not included in the Government supply-list, or which the Government cannot promptly provide." These fifteen gentlemen, who are all, we presume, civilians and have acquired their experience in cities, rather than in camps, constitute the effective staff, the working agents, by whose inspection, inquiry and advice, the great objects in view are supposed chiefly to be accomplished.

With regard to practical results achieved, there is a remarkable omission in the circular before us, which, we trust, the Sanitary Commission will supply. It appears that three hundred and fifty visits have been made by the fifteen Inspectors to our various camps, and that at each visit answers to no less than one hundred and eighty questions about the health and mortality of the troops have been recorded. Now, if these inquiries have been intelligently made, and if the advice consequent upon them be judiciously given and faithfully acted on, surely some practical results can be shown. The public wish to know what improvement in the sanitary state of our soldiers is on record, and is clearly traceable to the labors of the Inspectors. The details of instances of diminished sickness and reduced mortality cannot surely be difficult to supply, for, as we are told, "everything that can affect the health, efficiency and *morale* of each regiment is inspected, recorded and tabulated, and there is hardly a volunteer camp in which the Inspectors have not corrected some perilous abuse or removed some source of disease, while many camp sites, reeking with poisonous exhalations, have been purified and made wholesome within twenty-four hours after the visit from one of the Inspectors." If the sanitary inspection of the camps has indeed worked so well, and has produced such beneficent effects, or if the qualifications of our brigade and regimental surgeons are really such that whole regiments are occasionally in a state which threatens "a speedy epidemic, with all their officers absolutely ignorant of any sanitary precautions," these facts should be known.

Another of the omissions in this document is, that no reference is made to the neglect of vaccination in some of our regiments. The Sanitary Commission has now been in existence over six months. It claims to have been in constant intercourse with the medical officers of the various divisions. Ten thousand dollars of the public money are at this moment in its hands. Why has it not supplied vaccine virus to every regiment? Why has a single soldier been allowed to remain exposed to a loathsome malady when, by the outlay of a few cents, a certain preventive might have been provided for him. The Commission, we observe, has just determined to print a treatise on the value of vaccination in the army. Is not this rather a circumlocutory method for getting our soldiers vaccinated? Is it not possible to put the public money to more practical uses? Would it not be well to purchase vaccine virus rather than print vaccine pamphlets?

A very considerable portion of the Report is devoted to covert and insinuated attacks upon the Medical Bureau of the army. This fact renders somewhat extraordinary the disclaimer, made in a note, of all responsibility for previous assaults of precisely the same character. In this circular the Commission do not conceal their hostility to the head of the Medical Bureau, nor their disposition to replace that department of the army by their own machinery. We have no intention at present of entering upon any examination of these complaints. Those of them which take any tangible shape imply complete ignorance or utter disregard of the respective duties of the Surgeon-General, the Medical Directors, the Purveyors, and the Brigade Surgeons. They were very completely answered, moreover, in a communication, from a competent authority, which was published in the TIMES of yesterday. If the Commission could prove every word they have written on this subject, not one of their charges would tell more against the Surgeon-General than against Secretary CAMERON or Gen. MCCLELLAN.

We learn that a bill has been introduced in Congress ostensibly for reorganizing the Medical Bureau, but really for replacing its present officers by others more acceptable to the Sanitary Commission. We shall be greatly surprised if Congress shall be willing to legislate upon a principle so unjust in itself, and so utterly destructive of everything like system and method in the army. We have not seen the bill, and can therefore say nothing at present of its provisions.

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

How the Late News from Europe is Regarded.

No Ultimatum Expected from England.

Important Reconnoissances to Vienna and Fairfax Court-house.

The Ball's Bluff Disaster Not to be Inquired Into.

More Rebel Batteries on the Lower Potomac.

OUR SPECIAL WASHINGTON DISPATCHES.

WASHINGTON, Monday, Dec. 16.

THE NEWS FROM EUROPE.

The latest news from England has occasioned no marked excitement among public men, the indignation of the British Press having been anticipated. Hence the absence of expressions of surprise. As pending disputes between the United States and Great Britain heretofore, the angry public voice has subsided, to await the result of diplomatic formalities, so will it be again. The particular claim of the British Government, growing out of the removal of Messrs. MASON and SLIDELL from the *Trent*, having yet to be presented, the arguments in its support must become a question of controversy, and it is not unreasonable to assume that our own Government will have at least equal advantage and skill in the discussion. When the British Government shall have made a formal demand for the restitution of the rebel Ministers, the time will have arrived for such response as will show that, although we are engaged with the insurgents, there is still integrity in the Government to furnish such a reply as will not be at variance with our heretofore amply-sustained character of National independence. The Diplomatic Corps seemed to be more concerned in the important question at issue than our own civil functionaries.

Questions are generally asked, what will be the result of the controversy, rather than the expression of individual opinion upon the subject. As to the Administration, there is reason to believe that neither the President nor any member of the Cabinet will be diverted in the least degree from their present course of conducting the war.

The Wall-street panic is telegraphed here to-day, and excites much amusement in Administration circles. The falling of stocks in Wall-street on newspaper reports of Cabinet councils in London is considered rather a matter of speculation than of wisdom. It is thought that stocks will rise to-morrow in New-York. The Administration is understood to be expecting possibly a war with the Navajoes, but it has not begun to think a war possible with either England or France.

NO ULTIMATUM FROM ENGLAND.

The rumors of a messenger, arriving post-haste, with dispatches for Lord LYONS, are false. No ultimatum from the English Government in regard to SLIDELL and MASON is expected at the beginning of diplomatic correspondence on the subject.

IMPORTANT RECONNOISSANCES.

At three o'clock this morning Gen. WADSWORTH, with a part of his brigade, consisting of the Twentieth and Twenty-first New-York Infantry, and Harris Light Cavalry, made a reconnoissance from Upton's Hill toward Vienna. They proceeded to within half a mile of Vienna, but saw no signs of the Rebels. At the same time the Thirty-fifth New-York, of the same brigade, and Averill's Cavalry, went out on the dirt road, within the same distance of Fairfax Court-house. There the cavalry drove in the enemy's pickets, who offered no resistance. The reconnoitering parties seized seventy-six loads of corn and hay, and a fine horse, the property of a rebel. The enemy place sixty men on picket duty this side of Fairfax, but come only to Flint Hill in the direction of Vienna. Our pickets in that direction extend to the old Court-house, thus leaving some four miles between the extreme lines of the two armies. Our forces can take possession of Fairfax without any opposition at any time, but no troops

would arise from so doing, while it would make it necessary to greatly increase our pickets.

THE BALL'S BLUFF INQUIRY

In response to a resolution of the House, Secretary CAMERON to-day transmitted a communication to that Body, stating that the public service would not be promoted by a publication of the facts connected with the disastrous movement of our troops at Ball's Bluff. They are accordingly withheld.

THE DIFFICULTY BETWEEN MESSRS. CONWAY AND FOUKE.

Mr. CONWAY, of Kansas, who made a good impression by his speech, last Thursday, did not add to his fame by his encounter in the House, to-day, with Col. FOUKE, of Illinois. Mr. CONWAY had pronounced the battle of Belmont a defeat of the Union troops, his opinion being based, as he said, on a newspaper statement. Col. FOUKE, who led a regiment gallantly on that bloody field, pronounced the statement false. Mr. CONWAY demanded on the floor, this morning, whether Col. FOUKE meant to charge him with falsehood. Col. FOUKE responded in a brief account of the battle of Belmont, showing that the Union troops accomplished all they designed at Belmont, and fought their way in good order from the field, bearing the trophies of their success with them. Beyond this statement, he had no explanations to give. Mr. CONWAY did not consider this answer a disavowal of the charge of falsehood against himself, and retorted by calling Mr. FOUKE a blackguard and a scoundrel. Of course there will be rumors rife of a duel, but none will be fought.

THE NATIONAL PRISONERS IN CHARLESTON.

Much uneasiness is felt in relation to the fate of Col. CORCORAN and his fellow-prisoners in Charleston jail, which is thought to have been consumed in the conflagration there.

THE ESCAPE OF THE SUMTER.

A private letter from an officer on the *Iroquoise* gives a graphic description of the escape of the *Sumter* from Martinique. He states that from all that can be learned, the belief is that the *Sumter* has started for England, but that in consequence of the small quantity of coal she had taken, she may be compelled to put into Bermuda, or some other intermediate port, to obtain the needed supply.

MUST TAKE THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mr. GRANGER, of Michigan, introduced a bill in the House, to-day, requiring that all principals, agents or attorneys, in cases brought before any Department, or any Federal Court, shall take the oath of allegiance before being heard, and also that the oath shall be administered to all jurors in the Federal Courts and all contractors with the Government. It is an important bill, and will undoubtedly pass. The same gentleman introduced a bill appropriating $100,000 for the relief of Union prisoners in the South.

THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN REGULARS AND VOLUNTEERS.

The Senate Committee on Military Affairs have under consideration the bill submitted by Senator WILKINSON, to abolish the distinction between the regular and volunteer forces of the United States. The matter was referred by the Committee to Senator RICE, who, this morning, at a meeting of the Committee, submitted an able and elaborate adverse report upon the bill. He maintains—first, its unconstitutionality; and secondly, its inexpedience. He holds that the passage of such a bill would disband a large portion of the army, and do injustice to many of the best officers and soldiers in it. The Committee will report against the bill.

THE REMISSION OF MONEY TO SOLDIERS' FAMILIES.

This Committee have drawn a bill to facilitate the remission of money by soldiers to their families. It directs postmasters to give drafts to such soldiers as desire them, on any public depository, for any portion of their pay. These drafts will be transmitted by mail, and collected from the nearest depositories of the Government by the families of the soldiers.

THE SENATE DEBATE.

The debate in the Senate, to-day, on Mr. TRUMBULL'S resolution, was characterized by much feeling, and is supposed to indicate a formidable opposition to the policy of the Government.

SENATOR POLK GONE OVER TO THE REBELS.

A gentleman just arrived from Missouri states that Senator POLK has gone over to the rebels, and is taking counsel with them at Memphis. His treason has long been flagrant, as well as that of JOHNSON, his colleague. The Senate should at once expel them, that their seats may be filled by loyalists. Every State should be represented in Congress in times like these.

FUGITIVES FROM TEXAS IN TAMPICO.

FRANKLIN CHASE, United States Consul at Tampico, informs the Secretary of State that the city is thronged with loyal United States citizens, fugitives from Texas, in great distress, some of whom he has relieved as far as his own limited private means would allow. As Congress, however, makes no provision for the relief of destitute citizens in foreign countries, unless they are seamen, the cases of the fugitives mentioned by Mr. CHASE appeal strongly to the sympathies of the charitable at home.

THE NUMBER OF SEAMEN REGISTERED.

It appears from official documents that the number of seamen registered in the several ports of the Union during the year ending with September last, was four thousand five hundred and seventeen, of whom one hundred and forty-seven were naturalized.

THE DISMISSAL OF COL. LYNDE.

The War Department, in reply to a resolution of the House, says that Col. LYNDE is believed to be the only officer who was in any way involved in the suspicion of complicity in the offence of surrendering Fort Fillmore to an inferior force of Texans in July last, and that he has for that act been dismissed from the service.

MORE REBEL BATTERIES ON THE POTOMAC.

It is ascertained to-day that the rebels are erecting two more batteries on the Potomac at Shipping Point, just above the one shelled by the *Yankee* on Friday.

THE STEAMER VOLUNTEER FIRED INTO.

The steamer *Volunteer*, belonging to CALEB S WAIGHT, of Philadelphia, was attacked by a rebel battery, five miles this side of Mathias Point, several days ago. Twenty-seven shots were fired at the vessel, one of which struck the awning, and another passed through the timber, and lodged inside. She arrived here last night.

PAYING GEN. FREMONT'S MEN.

Col. FRANK P. BLAIR has prepared a bill directing the Secretary of War to pay off all officers and men whose services were accepted and actually employed by Major-Gen. FREMONT or by the commanding General of Missouri, whether they were regularly mustered into service or not. It also provides that the wounded and disabled of such shall draw bounty and pensions, and the heirs of the killed draw pay and bounty as in other cases. This bill fully provides for the Fremont Body Guard, and relieves the Government of the charge of injustice.

THE MEXICAN CORRESPONDENCE NOT FURNISHED.

Secretary SEWARD has declined to furnish Congress with a copy of his correspondence with foreign Governments, in regard to the proposed interference of certain Powers with the affairs of Mexico, on the ground that its publication at present is incompatible with the public interests.

SALTPETRE IN GREAT BRITAIN.

If the accounts by the *Europa* be true, that Great Britain has stopped the exportation of saltpetre to [illegible], the forwarding of the purchases recently made for the Government of all the saltpetre in [illegible] will be stopped at once. The plan for effecting this purchase was devised by Assistant Secretaries HARRINGTON and SCOTT, and so quietly was it done that nearly the whole stock was bought before any one was apprised of the unusual demand.

A BRITISH OFFICER'S SERVICES OFFERED.

Col. STEINBECK, of the British Army, has arrived in the City, and has offered his services to the Government.

A COMMISSION TO EXAMINE ARMS, ETC.

An Ordnance Board, consisting of Capts. POTTER and PLEASANTON, United States Army, and Dr. BRADFORD, of the Ordnance Corps, has been appointed to examine and report upon the value of certain small arms and newly-invented cartridges which have been brought before the military authorities. The cartridges are believed to possess extraordinary merit, justifying their immediate and general adoption in the army.

MEMBERS OF THE NEW-YORK TWENTY-THIRD IN HOSPITAL.

Forty-one members of the New-York Twenty-third are in the Falls Church Hospital, most of them suffering from typhoid fever. The cases are all of long standing. Saturday and Sunday the following privates died: ALEX. JAMES, RODOLPH BOUCHER and JOS. F. BOSWORTH. FREDERIC TIFFANY died on Thursday. The bodies of JAMES and TIFFANY have been sent home, and BOSWORTH'S will be. Each company of this regiment has a fund to be used in defraying the expenses of sending home their dead comrades.

THE KERRIGAN COURT-MARTIAL.

This morning, the General Court-martial for the trial of Col. KERRIGAN was again postponed until to-morrow morning, ostensibly on account of the absence of witnesses. It is understood that the trial on the additional charges will be proceeded with at once, without waiting for the finding of the Court on the previous charges. The influential friends of Col. KERRIGAN are making strenuous efforts to arrange for the acceptance of his resignation, and consequent withdrawal of all the charges against him. This may possibly have something to do with the delay in the trial.

THE PRECEDENCE OF PASSES.

It has been determined at headquarters, that hereafter the Provost Marshal's passes shall take precedence of Gen. MCCLELLAN'S. This is in consequence of the latter not having sufficient time to devote to the matter.

THE UNION SENTIMENT IN EASTERN VIRGINIA.

A prominent and influential citizen of Maryland who has recently been in Richmond, reports that the Union sentiment in Eastern Virginia is rapidly increasing. He says that if Congress shall not legislate unfavorably on the Slavery question, that portion of Virginia is safe for the Union. From his reports it is evident that Virginia is growing heartily sick of rebel rule.

RIFLED ARTILLERY PRACTICE.

The rifled artillery practice is daily continued at the Navy-yard, under the direction of Lieut. PARKER. The gunners have already acquired great proficiency. Experiments are also being made with an apparatus for the ejection of "liquid fire." At a recent trial, a steady stream of burning fluid was projected fifty yards from a force pump contrived for the purpose. The locality were the experiment was made was covered with a perfect sheet of flame.

DISMISSAL FROM THE SERVICE.

Lieut.-Col. BURTNETT, of the Second Regiment Morgan Artillery, who has been kept in close confinement for some time past by Col. PALMER, for insubordination, was this day dismissed from the service, by order of the President of the United States.

OUR FOREIGN COMMERCE.

CHARLES H. MARSHALL, THOMAS TILESTON and RICHARD LATHERS, a Committee of the New-York Chamber of Commerce, arrived this evening, and to-morrow will address a request to the President for an interview. They will urge the adoption of immediate measures to protect our foreign commerce, which is now suffering by reason of the difficulty of procuring insurance on American bottoms.

THE FIRST LEVEE.

The first levee of the season will be given at the President's house to-morrow evening. It will continue from 8 to 11 o'clock. During the Fall, the principal apartments of the Executive Mansion have been refitted and refurnished, and this, with the recent artistic decoration, has increased the attractions of the place.

A LIGHT RESTORED.

On Thursday last, Lieut. MURRAY, of the navy, crossed from the main land on the eastern shore of Virginia to Smith's Island, with sufficient of the lighthouse apparatus to reëstablish the light on Cape Charles, and it is now in full operation. The lighthouse keeper, JOHN S. ROBBINS, who has been represented as a consistent Union man throughout the rebellion, was again placed in charge—he taking the oath of allegiance.

GEN. SUMNER IMPROVING.

Gen. SUMNER is improving rapidly. He has not suffered the fracture of a rib, as was supposed, though he is badly bruised in the leg. He will be in the saddle in a few days.

BROWN'S HOTEL SOLD.

Brown's Hotel, in this city, was sold on Saturday to Messrs. ANDREW POTTS, CORNELIUS WENDELL and THOS. J. FISHER.

DEPARTURE OF MR. FAULKNER.

Mr. FAULKNER left this afternoon for Baltimore, *en route* for Fortress Monroe.

THE EUROPEAN NEWS.

How it is Received in Canada, and in the United States.

IN CANADA.

MONTREAL, Monday, Dec. 16.

The news from England by the *Europa* and *City of Washington*, creates much excitement. There is a strong British feeling throughout the Province.

TORONTO, Monday, Dec. 16.

The English news causes intense excitement, and the action of the Home Government is strongly approved.

IN THE UNITED STATES.

PHILADELPHIA, Monday, Dec. 16.

The money article of the *Bulletin*, of this city, says:

"The foreign news caused a feverish and excited Stock market to-day, with a downward tendency, particularly in 'fancies,' Reading declining one per cent. The better classes of securities sympathize with this downward movement, but, in the absence of transactions, prices are entirely nominal. The best bids for State loans are one per cent. below Saturday's prices. In monetary circles there is much distrust, and capitalists are holding off until the bluster and excitement subsides."

DETROIT, Mich., Monday, Dec. 16.

The European news creates a deep feeling, and the probabilities of a war with England are freely discussed. There is a general desire for our Government to place itself right as regards the law, when it will be sustained at every sacrifice.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, Monday, Dec. 16.

The news from England has produced a decided sensation in this section. The general sentiment is that our Government must maintain its rights and dignity, regardless of English bluster.

BALTIMORE, Monday, Dec. 16.

The effect of the English news in Baltimore has been to call forth a warm Union sympathy with the position of the President, while the rebels are rejoicing at the prospect of the aid of England to overthrow the Union. Nearly all the Irish in Baltimore have been Secessionists, but they are now rallying for the Union against England.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Monday, Dec. 16.

The English news was received here with general astonishment and profound indignation at the tone of the English Press and the alleged policy of the British Government. There is one sentiment only here, that the honor of our country must be maintained, and no concession made to British bluster.

CINCINNATI, Monday, Dec. 16.

The English news produced a profound sensation in commercial and financial circles, and the impression seems general that there is danger of a war with Great Britain; but whilst all admit that if Capt. WILKES did wrong in the *Trent* affair, due apology should be made, but if right, no humiliating concessions ought to be entertained for a moment to England or any other Power.

The news greatly unsettled the markets, and produced a temporary cessation of business, so that there was but little done in any department.

HARTFORD, Monday, Dec. 16.

The European news caused great excitement in this city for a time, but the unanimous feeling was that England's demands for MASON and SLIDELL could not be listened to for a moment. The sober second thought is that our Government should be firm but conciliatory; but if the alternative is give up the Commissioners or fight, *then fight*.

BUFFALO, Monday, Dec. 16.

The English news received here last night caused considerable excitement on the street. The prevailing opinion is that we have nothing to fear from a war with England. The *Express* says: "But we speak from and for a point terribly exposed to the horrors of war, we earnestly entreat our Government to sacrifice not one jot of its dignity in this period of trial. Whatever sacrifice may be thrown upon us, all will be borne more patiently than the mortification of national disgrace."

CHICAGO, Monday, Dec. 16.

The news from England by the *Europa* creates a profound sentiment in political circles. It is not credited that Her Majesty's Government has determined to demand the release of the rebel emissaries, MASON and SLIDELL. If, however, such be the case, the feeling seems to be that the Government shall be sustained in its efforts to sustain the National honor and National integrity. The *Tribune* and *Times* will suggest the propriety of submitting the questions of arbitration to some impartial neutral Power.

MILWAUKEE, Monday, Dec. 16.

There seems to be but one feeling here as regards the English news—that is, the hope that the Administration, if right, will maintain the position taken with firmness, let the issues be what they may. No one is frightened but the wheat buyers.

THE FIGHT IN WESTERN VIRGINIA.

A Gallant Affair—The Rebel Loss One Hundred and Fifty Killed, Including a Field Officer.

CINCINNATI, Monday, Dec. 16.

A dispatch from Phillippa says that our force at the battle of Alleghaney Camp numbered one thousand eight hundred. They came in sight of the enemy, drawn up in line of battle in front of their intrenchments, charged upon them, and drove them back. A hot fire was kept up during the afternoon on both sides, and several brilliant charges were made by our men.

Gen. MILROY withdrew his forces at nightfall, intending to renew the attack in the morning. During the night, however, the rebels silently left their camp, burning everything they could not carry with them.

Our loss is 20 killed and 30 wounded, while the rebel loss is 150 killed, including a field officer.

By this action, the front of Gen. REYNOLDS is cleared of the enemy, there being no organized rebel force within forty miles of our advanced post.

A detachment sent out from Phillippa on Saturday returned last night with ten rebel guerillas, including the notorious JAKE KURN.

NEWS FROM THE REBEL STATES.

The Arrest of Parson Brownlow at Knoxville on a Charge of Treason—Rumored Landing of National Troops in North Carolina—Another Call for Arms in Mississippi, etc.

CHICAGO, Monday, Dec. 16.

The Peoria *Transcript* has received late Southern papers, by a gentleman who left New-Orleans ten days ago, coming through Tennessee and Kentucky.

The Bowling Green (Ky.) *Courier* says that Parson BROWNLOW was arrested for treason by the Confederate States Commissioners at Knoxville on the 6th, and committed to jail. The Knoxville *Register* says that the rumor of an order from the Rebel War Department for BROWNLOW'S safe conduct North had created intense excitement.

The North Carolina *Standard* learns from a reliable source that a National regiment had taken possession of Portsmouth, N. C., and that there are ten Yankee steamers in Pamlico Sound.

LOUISVILLE, Sunday, Dec. 15.

The Jacksonport (Ark.) *Herald* says that Col. BORLAND has just returned from Pocahontas, and reports the Arkansas border still in danger. He says the Nationals at Poplar Bluff are 6,000 to 7,000 strong, and the scouts of the two armies have frequent skirmishes.

Col. BORLAND wants all the men he can promptly get.

The Checot (Ark.) *Press*, says quite a number of letters have been opened and their contents abstracted on the mail route between Lake Village and Memphis.

Mr. LAMERAS was killed at Columbus (Ark.) by T. YOUNG. YOUNG was subsequently hung by a mob.

A New-Orleans dispatch of the 10th says Lieut. SHEPHARD, commanding the rebel steamer *Mobile*, arrived at Brashears City with a Lieutenant and nine prisoners, taken from the United States schooner *Annie Dayton*, which was wrecked near Sabine Pass. They were sent to New-Orleans.

Memphis advices of the 11th say that the Georgia Legislature by 27 to 18, secures to married women all the property owned by them at the time of marriage.

The Louisville and Nashville Railroad has stopped receiving frieght at Nashville, from the 1st, the rolling stock being demanded to transport troops to Bowling Green.

The rebel Court at Richmond, on the 9th, decided that no change of citizenship after the commencement of hostilities can protect an alien enemy's property from sequestration.

The Governor of Mississippi calls on the citizens for all the weapons they have for the use of the rebel army.

Provisional Governor JOHNSON has issued a call at Bowling Green for twenty companies of volunteers from Kentucky.

The First Battalion of Tennessee cavalry were going into winter quarters at Moscow, Ky.

IMPORTANT FROM MISSOURI.

Gen. Prentiss' Skirmish with the Rebels—Another Battle at Lexington Probable.

ST. JOSEPH, Mo., Sunday, Dec. 15.

Forty of Gen. PRENTISS' command returned here last night, most of them sick with the measles. They report that the Nationals had several skirmishes with the rebels on their march, killing a few of them. When at the river opposite Lexington, they were fired on by the rebels at that place, and Gen. PRENTISS dispersed them with shells from three 12-pounders; but there being no ferry or means of crossing the river, our forces were compelled to return to Richmond for forage.

It was Gen. PRENTISS' intention, however, to cross the river Saturday at a point above Lexington, and the forces from Sedalia and Kansas City would join him. The rebels are reported to be 2,000 strong.

BETRAYAL OF THE ARKANSAS UNIONISTS.

ROLLA, Sunday, Dec. 15.

Several citizens of Arkansas have reached here during the past week, and enlisted in the Arkansas Company, under Capt. WARE, late member of the Legislature from that State. These men say there was a Union Society in Izard, Fulton, Independent and Searcey Counties, numbering 2,500 men, which could have made an organized stand in two weeks more, but it was betrayed by a recreant member and broken up and scattered. Many of these Union men have been arrested and taken to Little Rock; some have been hanged, and a large number are now in the woods trying to effect their escape from the State.

THE PRIVATEER SUMTER.

Reported Engagement with the Iroquois.

BALTIMORE, Monday, Dec. 16.

The bark *Agnes* has arrived here. She reports speaking the English brig *Mary Morton*, which reported that the *Sumter* and *Iroquois* had had a severe engagement, and that one of them—she did not know which—had put into Martinique to repair damages.

ARRIVAL OF THE ELEVENTH CONNECTICUT REGIMENT.

This regiment, Col. KINGSBURY, will arrive in this city this morning, *en route* for the seat of war. The reception breakfast to the officers will take place at the Astor House, at 10 o'clock. In the evening Gov. BUCKINGHAM will receive the Sons of Connecticut and their families at the same place.

Medical Lectures to Ladies—By Mrs. E. E. ROBERTS, (a practicing Physician,) every MONDAY and THURSDAY, at her residence, No. 79 West 38th-st., commencing always at 2 o'clock. Mrs. ROBERTS devotes her practice specially to all diseases of women, and furnishes to her patients all necessary medicines and remedies. Ample accommodations at her house for chronic patients and ladies during confinement. Personal consultations *free*; advice by letter, $1.

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Winter Style, or Festival Hat for 1862, is this day offered for inspection and sale by ESPENSCHEID, manufacturer of Gents' Hats, No. 118 Nassau-st.

MARRIED.

RIELL—BAKEWELL.—In this City, on Sunday, Dec. 15, at the Church of the Memorial, by Rev. Mr. Cook, Lieut. ROBERT BARCLAY RIELL, of the United States Navy, to Miss LOUISA BAKEWELL.

PEABODY—BADGER.—In Brooklyn, Dec. 12, at the residence of the bride's father, by Rev. J. McC. Holmes, Capt. THEODORE G. PEABODY, of Kennebunk, Me., to Miss FLORELLA E. BADGER, daughter of A. H. Badger, of the former place.

SMITH—SMITH.—In Stamford, Conn., on Monday, Dec. 16, by the father of the bride, Mr. WILLIAM D. SMITH to Miss ESTHER M., daughter of Rev. John Smith.

CRANE—FIELD.—In Philadelphia, on Wednesday, Dec. 4, at the West Spruce-st. Church, by Rev. W. P. Breed, assisted by Dr. W. S. Clark, Rev. JAMES B. CRANE, of Elizabeth, N. J., to KATE W., daughter of the late Charles Field, Esq., of Philadelphia.

DIED.

HOWARD.—In Brooklyn, on Monday, Dec. 16, HENRY L. HOWARD, son of Lancelot and Adeline M. Howard, in the 24th year of his age.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from his late residence, No. 269 Dean-st., on Wednesday, the 18th inst., at 1 o'clock P. M.

MULLER.—In this City, on Monday, Dec. 16, JULIA, daughter of Adrian H. and Catharine S. Muller, aged 22 years.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend her funeral, from the residence of her father, No. 67 West 37th-st., on Wednesday, the 18th inst., at 3 P. M., without further invitation.

CANDLER.—In this City, on Monday, Dec. 16, EMILY PATTERSON CANDLER, daughter of Samuel M. and the late Elizabeth and Cecilia Candler, aged 9 years, 11 months and 4 days.

The friends and relatives of the family, and of her uncle, John S. Patterson, are invited to attend the funeral, at the residence of the latter, No. 40 West 35th-st., on Wednesday, the 18th inst., at 12 o'clock M., without further notice.

BRYAN.—In this City, on Monday, Dec. 16, HARRIET A. BRYAN, wife of Frederick H. B. Bryan, of this City.

Funeral from No. 106 East 14th-st., on Wednesday, the 18th inst., at 2 P. M.

VAN RIPER.—In this City, on Monday, Dec. 16, CLARA, daughter of John F. and Mary Ellen Van Riper, in the 10th year of her age.

The friends and relatives of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, on Wednesday, at 11 A. M., from the residence of her parents, No. 35 Charlton-st.

CAFFREY.—In Yorkville, on Sunday, Dec. 15, suddenly, PETER CAFFREY, a gardener, in the 40th year of his age.

Funeral on Tuesday, at 1 o'clock, from the residence of his late employer, on 84th-st., between Avenues A and B.

COFFEY.—On Sunday, Dec. 15, at the residence of Mr. Joseph Curtis, PETER COFFEY, a native of Loughrea, County of Meath, Ireland, aged 39 years.

The relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, at the corner of 83d-st. and Avenue A., at 1 o'clock P. M., this day, without further invitation. His remains will be taken to Calvary Cemetery for interment.

☞ Newark and Paterson papers please copy.

THURBER.—In this City, on Sunday morning, Dec. 15, JAMES THURBER, Jr., late of Providence, R. I., aged 52 years.

His relatives and friends, and those of his brother-in-law, John H. Saffen, are invited to attend his funeral, on Tuesday morning, at 9½ o'clock, from his late residence, No. 195 West 30th-st.

CANEY.—In this City, on Sunday, Dec. 15, ELIZABETH J., wife of William Caney, daughter of Thomas and Margaret Jackson, aged 26 years.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from her late residence, No. 124 West 42d-st., on Tuesday, the 17th inst., at 12 M. The remains will be taken to Greenwood for interment.

ACKERMAN.—In Yorkville, on Sunday, Dec. 15, of diphtherial croup, EDGAR S., son of James and Helen Ackerman, in the 5th year of his age.

The funeral will take place at 11 o'clock, Tuesday, from East 84th-st., corner of Avenue A, to Greenwood.

BARNET.—On Sunday morning, Dec. 15, SUSAN, wife of the late George Barnet, in the 60th year of her age.

The funeral will take place from the residence of her son-in-law, John Macarthy, No. 53 Clermont-av., Brooklyn, on Tuesday afternoon, at 1½ o'clock, to which the relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited.

BECAR.—In Brooklyn, on Sunday, Dec. 15, RUTH H., wife of Noel J. Becar, and only daughter of Shepard A. Mount, aged 18 years.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, on Tuesday afternoon, the 17th inst., at Christ Church, Brooklyn.

STEPHENSON.—In Brooklyn, on Sunday, Dec. 15, EDWARD M., only son of James M. and Julia A. Stephenson, aged 1 year, 2 months and 9 days.

The funeral service will take place at the residence of his parents, No. 85 Adelphi-st., on Wednesday morning, at 10 o'clock. His body will be taken to Staten Island for interment.

GRAVE.—In Tompkinsville, Staten Island, on Sunday, morning, Dec. 15, after a lingering illness, EMERENTIA beloved wife of Charles W. Grave, M. D., in the 46th year of her age.

HASBROUCK.—In Peekskill, Westchester County, on Sunday morning, Dec. 15, FENELON HASBROUCK, M. D., since May, 1858, Editor of the *Highland Democrat*.

Funeral at the Reformed Dutch Church, Peekskill, on Wednesday, the 18th inst., at 10½ o'clock A. M.

BREWER.—In Stockbridge, Mass., on Monday, Dec. 16, Mrs. EMILIA F. BREWER, wife of Rev. Josiah Brewer, and daughter of Rev. Dr. Field, aged 54 years.

DEVOE.—In Bristol, R. I., Mrs. MARTHA DEVOE, relict of the late John Devoe, aged 86 years.

Funeral services will be held at the house of her son, Daniel M. Devoe, No. 37 Macdougal-st., this day, (Tuesday,) at 1 o'clock P. M. Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

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65, 62, 4, 59, 71, 9, 53, 40, 48, 29, 8, 20, 7, 10.
KENTUCKY, EXTRA CLASS 647.—Dec. 16, 1861.
16, 74, 22, 13, 45, 1, 65, 6, 24, 11, 4, 66.
KENTUCKY, CLASS 648.—Dec. 16, 1861.
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LINEN HANDKERCHIEFS,
of every variety, in plain, hemstiched and embroidered for men, women and children, from 3 cents to $3 each.
Elegant embroidered Handkerchiefs, for presents, at half price. Handkerchiefs, in elegant boquet boxes, the secret spring of which unfolds the centre rose, which contains a motto—a real novelty.
NECK TIES.
25,000 dozen elegant Ties, at 5, 15 and 20 cents.
GENTS' SCARFS
In new and elegant designs, at 50c., 75c. and $1. The same as are sold by all retailers at $1 50. No present can be more acceptable to a gentleman than a beautiful scarf.
LINEN COLLARS.
The very best 4-ply collars, at 10 cents each, all styles.
GLOVES AND HOSIERY.
Ladies' and Gents' fine Beaver Gloves, at 50 cents.
UNDERSHIRTS
And Drawers, Suspenders, Traveling-shirts, etc., etc.
Everything marked in plain figures. Open evenings.
A GREAT C

LAW REPORTS.

Court Calendar—This Day.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT.—Jury causes, Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15. Admiralty causes, Nos. 50, 51, 52, 57, 62, 60, 31.

SUPREME COURT—SPECIAL TERM.—Nos. 73, 538, 501, 576, 223, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 12.

SUPREME COURT—CIRCUIT.—*Part I.*—Adjourned for the term. *Part II.*—Nos. 1388, 984, 1380, 802, 1518, 1529, 1524, 1526, 1528, 1532, 1534, 1536, 1538, 1542, 1546, 1550, 1556, 1558, 1560.

SUPERIOR COURT—TRIAL TERM.—*Part I.*—Nos. 2609, 2611, 2615, 2623, 2629, 2631, 1677, 2543, 2171, 349, 1513½, 758, 2503, 1093, 773, 1233, 1157. *Part II.*—Nos. 2870, 2872, 2874, 614, 2509, 3326, 2896, 1380, 2710, 422, 522, 2228.

Will the Factor's Guarantee of Account Sales make him Principal Debtor?

SUPERIOR COURT—SPECIAL TERM.

Before Justice White.

J. & A. Barlklie vs. *Mitchell & Pott, and Otis D. Swan, their Assignee.*—It appeared, on the hearing of this case, that the defendants, Mitchell & Pott, of this City, were the factors and commission agents of the plaintiffs, who are linen manufacturers in Larne, Ireland.

In May last Mitchell & Pott failed in business, and assigned their estate to the defendant Swan. At the time of their assignment they had in their possession part of the proceeds of these consigned goods, which had not been remitted, and the plaintiffs charge that Mitchell & Pott had assigned such proceeds, which were in the shape of notes and open accounts, to the defendant Swan, and claimed to recover from the defendant Swan such proceeds, and ask an accounting. The defendant Swan claimed to hold such proceeds as assignee of the other defendants, for the benefit of creditors, and contended that Mitchell & Pott were not mere factors. They had often remitted in advance of sales, and the proceeds of the goods were treated as their own. They had thus assumed the position of principal debtors.

Decision was reserved.

Henry Nicoll for plaintiffs; Albert Matthews for defendants.

The Delinquent Liquor Vendors—Pleasant Intelligence for Them.

SUPREME COURT—CHAMBERS.

Before Justice Leonard.

The Excise Commissioners vs. *R. H. Purdy and 65 others.*—The Liquor Dealers' Association, by their counsel, moved to dismiss the complaints in these cases, on the ground that they had been commenced by the opposing counsel without the authority of the Board. No notice had been given to the Board of Excise, nor proofs offered to show the violation charged.

The Court granted the motion, holding that the requirements of the act had not been complied with by the counsel commencing the suits—Messrs. Sickles and Cushing.

J. M. Smith, for motion; G. G. Sickles and S. B. Cushing, opposed.

The Transit Company Difficulties—Vanderbilt and the Receiver.

SUPREME COURT—SPECIAL TERM.

Before Justice Ingraham.

David Colden Murray vs. *Cornelius Vanderbilt.*—This case has been on several occasions stated in the TIMES.

The action is brought by the plaintiff as Receiver, to recover claims amounting in all to something like $2,500,000, the plaintiff alleging that the defendant had fraudulently converted to his own use the property of the Company to that extent—a part of which was a monthly subsidy of $40,000, paid by the Pacific Mail Steamship Company to the defendant, as President of the Accessory Transit Company, of which the plaintiff is the receiver.

The defendant sets up that he had liens and mortgages upon the property of the Company to the extent which it is alleged he had fraudulently converted it to his own use.

He claims that he was personally entitled to the $40,000 per month received from the Pacific Mail Steamship Company since 1856.

The case is still on.

Henry A. Cram, John Sherwood and Amasa J. Parker, for plaintiffs; C. A. Rapello, Daniel Lord, Horace F. Clark, Wm. M. Evarts and Chas. O'Conor, for defendant.

Court of General Sessions.

In this Court yesterday afternoon, before Recorder HOFFMAN, Joseph Johnson, 23 years of age, a native of New-York, indicted for murder in the first degree in killing a colored man named Stephen Casey, pleaded guilty to manslaughter in the fourth degree, and was remanded for sentence. Charles Smith, (colored,) 36 years of age, a native of Pennsylvania, pleaded guilty to manslaughter in the second degree, under an indictment for the murder of his mistress, Mary Jones, by stabbing, on the morning of the 4th of July last, at No. 19 Mulberry-street. Remanded for sentence. In Part II., before Judge MCCUNN, Robert Kneeland, native of New-York, 40 years of age, pleaded guilty to an attempt at grand larceny, by means of the pocket-book drop game, which he played off upon Joseph H. Fulton, of the Bull's Head Hotel. Remanded for sentence.

The case of Albert Uhl, previously noticed, was summed up, and, under the charge of the Court, was given to the jury, who returned a verdict of manslaughter in the fourth degree,

Resigned.

SUPREME COURT—CIRCUIT.—PART FIRST.

Theodore M. Squires, clerk of this branch of the Court, has resigned his position.

Decisions.

SUPREME COURT—CHAMBERS.

Before Justice Leonard.

The Commissioners of Excise vs. *Purdy et al.*—Motions granted with $10 costs, to be included in one order only.

The Little Rock *Democrat* contains the following official note from the Acting Secretary of War to JOHN D. KIMBELL, Secretary of the Arkansas Senate:

"Your dispatch received. I understand that Gen. JOHNSTON has only disbanded unarmed troops that have not enlisted for the war. The Government cannot give arms to volunteers for twelve months as long as it has troops offered for the war to a number greater than can now be armed. If Arkansas will imitate her sister States in tendering volunteers for the war, the Government will supply them with arms in exact proportion with the other States."

Movements of European Steamers.

FROM EUROPE.

City of Washington	Liverpool	New-York	Dec. 4
Teutonia	Southampton	New-York	Dec. 4
Bohemian	Liverpool	Portland	Dec. 5
America	Liverpool	New-York	Dec. 7
St. Andrew	Glasgow	New-York	Dec. 7
Arago	Southampton	New-York	Dec. 11
Nova Scotian	Liverpool	Portland	Dec. 12
Niagara	Liverpool	Boston	Dec. 14
Hammonia	Southampton	New-York	Dec. 18
John Bell	Glasgow	New-York	Dec. 21
Asia	Liverpool	New-York	Dec. 21
Bremen	Southampton	New-York	Dec. 25
Canada	Liverpool	Boston	Dec. 28
Borussia	Southampton	New-York	Jan. 1

FROM AMERICA.

Africa	New-York	Liverpool	Dec. 18
Glasgow	New-York	Liverpool	Dec. 21
Hansa	New-York	Southampton	Dec. 21
Anglo-Saxon	Portland	Liverpool	Dec. 21
Europa	Boston	Liverpool	Dec. 25
Bohemian	Portland	Liverpool	Dec. 28
City of Washing'n	New-York	Liverpool	Dec. 28
America	New-York	Liverpool	Jan. 1
Arago	New-York	Southampton	Jan. 4
Nova Scotian	Portland	Liverpool	Jan. 4
St. Andrew	New-York	Glasgow	Jan. 7
Niagara	Boston	Liverpool	Jan. 8
Asia	New-York	Liverpool	Jan. 15
John Bell	New-York	Glasgow	Jan. 21

Departure of European Mails.

The mails for Europe, by the steamship *Africa*, will close at the New-York Post-office to-morrow (Wednesday) at 11½ A. M.

Mails Close at the Post-office.

North Mails close at.....5 A. M. and 3:30 P. M.
South Mails close at.....5 A. M. and 4:30 and 10 P. M.
Western Mails (*via* Erie Railroad) 5 A. M. and 3:30 P. M.
Eastern Mails close at.....5 A. M., 2 P. M. and 6:30 P. M.

Mails for California, Oregon, Washington and the Sandwich Islands close daily at the New-York Post-office at 8½ A. M. and 3½ P. M.

On Sunday all Mails close at 1:30 P. M.

TEACHERS.

AMERICAN SCHOOL INSTITUTE SUPplies schools and families with competent teachers. Teachers of first-class qualifications and good moral character are invited to call. Several teachers are required to fill vacancies already existing

G. S. WOODMAN & CO., No. 598 Broadway.

AS DRAWING TEACHER.—A GENTLEMAN wants a situation to teach Drawing or Water-Color painting, in a school where he could instruct a class for a few hours daily, or weekly. Address, stating terms, H. B., Box No. 161 *Times* Office.

AS PROFESSOR OF FRENCH.—A French gentleman and wife, having had a long experience in teaching, wish to find a situation as Professors of French and Music in a school, city or country. Address N. B., Union-square Post-office.

INSTRUCTION.

THE IRVING INSTITUTE, TARRYTOWN, N. Y., will commence its Forty-eighth semi-annual session on FRIDAY, Nov. 1, 1861, for boys only. Circulars can be had of Jas. M. Whitehead, No. 117 Nassau-st., Rooms of A. B. H. M. S., office of Manhattan Printing Ink Co., No. 1 Spruce-st., or by addressing the Principal.

D. S. ROWE, M. A.

MR. GEORGE C. ANTHON'S CLASSICAL French and English School, with Preparatory Department and Gymnasium, Broadway, corner 18th-st.

HUDSON RIVER INSTITUTE, CLAVERack, Columbia County, N. Y.—Jan. 3, Winter term opens. Special advantages. Military drill under an experienced officer. Classical instruction given by a Yale graduate. Two gentlemen professors in piano music; Madam Stephani instructs in vocalisation; native teacher instructs in French. $120 a year pays board and tuition in common English: $200 a year pays the whole bill, including all extras.

Rev. ALONZO FLACK, A. M., Principal.

AT RENVILLE'S COMMERCIAL INSTITUTE, NO. 362 BROADWAY.—Fifteen years' unparalleled success in fitting young men for every department of business, Bookkeeping, Mercantile Penmanship, and Arithmetic. Full practical course $15. Writing department conducted by W. C. Hoogland, for many years with Goldsmith.

PARKER AND BERTHET'S CLASSICAL, French and English School, with primary department and Gymnasium, No. 23 East 21st-st., corner of Broadway, will reopen Sept. 9. French is spoken in one department. Circulars at Lockwood's Bookstore.

BOARDING SCHOOL FOR BOYS.—AN EXperienced teacher, with a beautiful and healthy location near the City, has two vacancies, ages from 8 to 14 preferred. Terms reasonable. Address A. B., Box No. 618 New-York Post-office.

HIGHLAND COLLEGE, NEWBURGH, N. Y.—For civil and military education, under the direction of Rev. C. S. HENRY, D. D.; Prof. GEORGE W. GREENE, M. A., and Rev. E. H. CRESSY, D. D. The second quarterly term will begin Dec. 9, 1861.

MOUNT WASHINGTON COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE, No. 218 4th-st., on Washington-square, corner of Macdougal-st., (CLARKE & FANNING, Rectors, with twelve assistants,) prepares pupils of all ages for business or College.

A SELECT CLASS, FOR THE STUDY OF German, will be opened by one of the most successful teachers. For particulars, inquire of GEO. S. PETRIE, Esq., No. 44 Park-place, New-York.

AUCTION SALES.

EDWARD SCHENCK, Auctioneer.

ABSOLUTE SALE OF ELEGANT FURNITURE,

AT THE WAREHOUSE OF ALBERT KUNZE.

By EDWARD SCHENCK, on WEDNESDAY, 18th inst., at 11 o'clock, at the warerooms, No. 654 Broadway, all of the elegant stock, consisting in part of rosewood parlor suites, do. etageres, centre tables, bedroom suites, black walnut parlor suites in reps, black walnut bedroom suites, buffets and extension tables, black walnut bookcases, library and dining-room suites, black walnut hall furniture, easy chairs, lounges, crapeau and fancy chairs, &c., &c. The furniture is now on exhibition, and the attention of those in want of fine furniture is respectfully called to this sale, as the furniture is of the very finest quality, and will be positively sold without reserve.

EDWARD SCHENCK, Auctioneer.

SHERIFF'S SALE

OF

SUPERB DIAMOND JEWELRY

AND ENGLISH GOLD WATCHES,

By EDWAMD SCHENCK, on THURSDAY, the 19th inst., at 10½ o'clock, at his salesroom, Nos. 156 and 157 Broadway. The goods will positively be on exhibition at the salesroom, on Wednesday, the 18th inst., from 11 until 3 o'clock.

N. B.—A deposit of 25 per cent. will be positively required of every purchaser at the time of sale, the balance of the purchase to be paid within the next day, in bankable money, or by certified check. None other received.

W. M. HOLLINGSHEAD, Auctioneer.

FIVE HUNDRED CASES

BOOTS AND SHOES

At auction, for cash,

On THURSDAY, Dec. 19, at 10½ o'clock,

by ALEXIS BRAGG & WARREN, No. 30 Warren-st., comprising a very general assortment of fresh and seasonable goods, to which the attention of buyers is respectfully invited. Men's grain Boots, in great variety, at private sale.

HENRY H. LEEDS, Auctioneer.

ASSIGNEE'S SALE OF JEWELRY.—HENRY H. LEEDS & CO. will sell at auction, on TUESDAY, Dec. 17, at 11 o'clock, at the salesroom No. 23 Nassau-st.:

ASSIGNEE'S SALE OF SUPERB DIAMOND JEWELRY, WATCHES, SILVER WARE, ELEGANT ARTISTIC CORAL SETS, &c., by order of Richard Dennis, Assignee, being the remaining balance of the stock sold by us on Nov. 8, and comprising by far the most valuable and recherche assortment, consisting of valuable watches, set with diamonds and pearls, independent second double lever chronometers and duplex watches in hunting and single cases, patent-lever do. by Roskell, Cooper, Tobias, and other first-class makers; ladies' and gents' chatelain vest and fob chains, cameo, pearl, and other complete sets of bracelets, brooch and ear-rings, set with diamonds and other precious stones; diamond, ruby, emerald and seal rings in variety; sterling silver ware in sets; salvers, cups, goblets, &c., &c.; gold thimbles, clusters, solitaire and hooped rings of value, diamond pins, and crosses and ear-rings. In this superb stock will be found an elegant sapphire, weighing 6 carats, surmounted by 18 fine brilliants in form of a brooch; a large brilliant opal, set with 12 diamonds; a very fine and large diamond cross, 11 fine brilliants; a pair of elegant diamond cluster ear-rings and brooch to match; a number of cluster rings, costing from $100 to $250; several sets of superbly cut coral, imported by the late owner for private sale from Naples, and varying in shade from the most delicate to the deepest rose colors—all of which will be sold without reserve to close the concern, by order of Richard Dennis. The attention of the trade and others is called to this sale.

Also, single diamond-stone breastpin, weighing over 6¼ carats, perfect in cut and shape, and very brilliant.

HENRY H. LEEDS, Auctioneer.

HENRY H. LEEDS & CO. WILL SELL at auction, on

WEDNESDAY, 18th, and THURSDAY, 19th inst., At 10½ o'clock each day,

At the warerooms of Shaffer & Sucknow, No. 520 Broadway, between Spring and Broome sts.,

ASSIGNEE'S SALE OF ELEGANT CABINET FURNITURE OF THE FIRST CLASS—Being the closing sale of their stock, consisting of elegant parlor suites, in ebony, mounted in ormolu and inlaid with bronze medallion; buffet and fancy chairs to match; suites in open work, vine carved rosewood and others; rosewood etageres, console tables, bookcases, centre, side and other tables; fancy reception chairs, richly carved and plain; marble-top dressing bureaus, oiled walnut furniture, extension tables, oak buffets and chairs, hall-stands, elegant suites bedroom furniture, in various styles, with other descriptions of first-class furniture.

The above can be examined until the days of sale, and will be sold without reserve to close up the concern.

HENRY D. MINER, Auctioneer.

Salesroom No. 37 Nassau-st., opposite the Post-office.

MINER & SOMERVILLE WILL SELL at auction, on TUESDAY, Dec. 17, at 10½ o'clock, at the cabinet warehouse of James E. Palmer, successor to William Palmer, No. 70 East Broadway, near Market-st., the entire stock of cabinet furniture, all of which was made expressly for custom trade; will be sold without reserve to close the business, consisting of in part as follows, viz.: Rosewood suites in muslin, rosewood etageres, rosewood and mahogany bookcases, oak and black walnut extension tables, rosewood and mahogany centre tables, bureaus, washstands and chairs, King's patent chairs, hedsteads, music racks, rockers, lounges, cribs, &c., &c. The attention of parties desiring first-class furniture is particularly called to this sale, as every article is of the best work and latest styles, and will positively be sold without reserve.

HENRY H. LEEDS, Auctioneer.

HENRY H. LEEDS & CO. WILL SELL at auction, on WEDNESDAY, Dec. 18, at 10½ o'clock, at the salesroom No. 23 Nassau-st., a beautiful assortment of Fancy Goods, being the opening sale of the season, consisting of beautiful bronze figures, groups, candelabras and candlesticks, beautiful Parian vases and figures, Parian tête-à-tête sets, ormolu and bronze jewel caskets, white china dinner and tea sets, dessert sets, china vases, figures and ornaments, elegant silver-plated ware, waiters, teaspoons, butter-knives, napkin-rings, colored Parian figures, reticules, odeur-boxes, terra cotta ware in every variety, with a large invoice of hair-brushes, clothes-brushes, hat do., &c.

DANIEL A. MATHEWS, Auctioneer.—Salesrooms Nos. 79 Nassau-st., between Fulton and John-sts.

SUPERB PARIS FANCY GOODS, BRONZES, CLOCKS, PARIAN AND BISQUE FIGURES, &c., suitable for holiday presents.—DANIEL A. MATHEWS will sell at auction THIS DAY (Tuesday) and TO-MORROW (Wednesday,) at 10½ o'clock at his salesrooms, Nos. 79 Nassau-st., a very large and elegant assortment of rich fancy goods, comprising splendid bronze statuettes and groups, elegant French china vases, colognes, fancy figures, card receivers, workboxes, Paris fans, reticules, Parian and bisque figures, fine mantel clocks, rich glassware, &c., all of very recent importation, and adapted for holiday presents.

B. H. SEIXAS, Auctioneer.

AUCTION NOTICE.—THE ENTIRE CONTENTS of China Hall is now removed to the second story of Room No. 655 Broadway, over Wm. Taylor's Saloon; sale will commence on THURSDAY, Dec. 19, and sold without reserve, for cash only, under the direction of the assignee. The stock consists of dinner, breakfast, toilet and tea sets, mantel ornaments, plated ware, cutlery, japanned tea trays, a large quantity of granite ware; glass, rich Bohemian, cut, crystal and moulded, selected for family use by the former proprietor, C. C. Leigh. The goods are now ready for examination.

WM. TAYLOR, Assignee.

Catalogues can be procured the morning of sale.

BROWNE & NICHOLS, Auctioneers.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 18, AT 10 1-2 o'clock, at salesroom No. 35 Nassau-st., a superb importation of Carrara marbles and alabaster goods, rich Bohemian glassware from the royal manufactory at Prague; rich silver-plated goods, parian ware, bisquet and decorated china, bronzes, clocks, fine paintings, articles of virtu for holiday presents, Japan goods, &c. Signor L. Topi, of Florence, Italy, respectfully announces the above sale. It will be peremptory. Full particulars in time.

WM. M. HOLLINGSHEAD, Auctioneer.

LARGE AND PEREMPTORY SALE OF boots, shoes, brogans and rubbers, at auction, on TUESDAY, Dec. 17, at 10½ o'clock, at the store of J. T. Whitehouse, No. 25 Cortlandt-st. This sale will consist, in part, of prime grain calf and thick boots, fresh from manufacturers, and well adapted to City and country trade, to which we would invite the attention of buyers. Catalogues on morning of sale.

HENRY D. MINER, Auctioneer,

Salesroom No. 37 Nassau-st., opposite the Post-office.

MINER & SOMERVILLE WILL SELL at auction, on WEDNESDAY, Dec. 18, at 10½ o'clock, at No. 470 Grand-st., near Pitt, the balance of the stock of a furniture dealer, to close the business, consisting of bureaus, washstands, chairs, tables, sofas, rockers, arm-chairs, towel-racks, children's chairs, &c., &c.

J. H. BURLEY, Auctioneer.

WILL SELL THIS DAY AT 2 O'CLOCK, at No. 44 Canal-st., bureaus, bedsteads, chairs, tables, sofas, sofa-beds, wardrobes, mirrors, hair and other mattresses, feather-beds, comforters, blankets, Brussels, 3-ply and other carpets, oil-cloths, Druggets, kitchen furniture, &c.

A. S. RICHARDS, Auctioneer.

5,000 PAIRS OF WOMEN'S MISSES' and children's morocco copper-nailed Boots and Balmorals at auction, by RICHARDS & WHITING, on WEDNESDAY, Dec. 18, at 10½ o'clock, at store No. 44 Cortlandt-st. Also, a large assortment of prime Winter goods. Catalogues on morning of sale.

DRY GOODS.

REAL LACES AND LACE GOODS,

RECEIVED BY STEAMER FULTON.

ARNOLD, CONSTABLE & CO.,

Will open on

MONDAY, DEC. 9,

A BEAUTIFUL ASSORTMENT OF

LACE GOODS.

In consequence of the great depression in the European markets, these goods have been purchased much under regular prices, and will be offered proportionately cheap, consisting of

COLLARS, SETS, HANDKERCHIEFS, BARBES, COIFFURES, LACES, &c.,

In Point Applique, Point d'Alencon, and Point a l'Aiguille. CANAL-ST., corner of Mercer-st.

CLOAKS.

ARNOLD, CONSTABLE & CO.

Have now ready

A VERY SUPERIOR STOCK OF CLOAKS,

Of all kinds, suitable for the season. Among them many novelties, and all at moderate prices.

CANAL-ST., corner of Mercer-st

CLOAKS SOLD AT COST:

Our sales of Fashionable Cloaks of every kind, at greatly reduced prices, will continue

UNTIL AFTER THE HOLIDAYS.

A small lot of Rich Embroidered Velvet Cloaks, manufactured in Paris, will be sold at half the cost of importation.

SPECIAL NOTICE!

Cloak materials of every description. Persons furnishing the materials, and wishing to employ our operatives, can have them made up in the most approved manner, at precisely the cost of manufacture.

LORD & TAYLOR,

Nos. 461 to 467 BROADWAY,
Nos. 255 to 261 GRAND-ST.,
Nos. 47 and 49 CATHARINE-ST.

SHAWLS AT REDUCED PRICES.

A VERY LARGE and DESIRABLE ASSORTMENT

OF

FASHIONABLE WINTER SHAWLS,

INCLUDING

ALL THE LATEST STYLES,

AT RETAIL, AT GREATLY REDUCED PRICES!

LORD & TAYLOR,

Nos. 461 to 467 BROADWAY.
Nos. 255 to 261 GRAND-ST.,
Nos. 47 and 49 CATHARINE-ST.

RICH SILKS AND DRESS GOODS.

An immense assortment of

RICH DRESS GOODS AND FASHIONABLE

PARIS DRESS SILKS,

AT RETAIL—MUCH BELOW USUAL PRICES!

LORD & TAYLOR,

Nos. 461 to 467 BROADWAY,
Nos. 255 to 261 GRAND ST.,
Nos. 47 and 49 CATHARINE-ST.

PARIS KID GLOVES AT 62 1-2 CENTS.

500 dozen LADIES' PARIS KID GLOVES,

RETAILED AT 62½ CENTS PER PAIR.

LORD & TAYLOR,

Nos. 461 to 467 BROADWAY.

DRESS GOODS FOR HOLIDAY

PRESENTS!

PUT UP IN DRESS PATTERNS. ALSO,

LOW-PRICED DRESS GOODS,

IN GREAT VARIETY.

LORD & TAYLOR,

Nos. 461 to 467 BROADWAY,
Nos. 255 to 261 GRAND-ST.,
Nos. 47 and 49 CATHARINE-ST.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

GREAT BARGAINS—CLOSING OUT AT RETAIL AN IMPORTERS STOCK OF BLACK SILKS, FRENCH MERINOES AND BOMBAZINES,

75 per cent. below usual prices.

Splendid qualities of MERINOES, 5s. and 6s. per yard.

Elegant BOMBAZINES at $1 per yard.

BLACK SILKS, good qualities, 75 cents, worth $1.

Observe,

W. JACKSON'S Mourning Store,

No. 551 Broadway, between Spring and Prince sts.

FASHIONABLE CLOAKS.

At reduced prices.

FRENCH BEAVER CLOAKS,

HEAVY ESQUIMAUX BEAVER CLOAKS,

MOSCOW BEAVER CLOAKS AND WRAPPERS

ELEGANT LYONS VELVET CLOAKS,

PLUSH AND LIONSKIN CLOAKS, in a great variety

All new styles, at retail, at reduced prices.

E. S. MILLS & CO.,

No. 413 Broadway, near Canal-st.

A CARD.

W. JACKSON, No. 551 Broadway, calls special attention to his general stock of family MOURNING GOODS, being, without exception, the largest, most desirable and cheapest ever offered at retail.

N. B.—Full suits made up, in the best style, on short notice.

ASSORTMENT UNEQUALED

Of useful articles for

HOLIDAY PRESENTS.

White French China Tea Sets for Holiday Gifts	$3 75
Fancy French China Tea Sets for Holiday Gifts	7 00
SILVER PLATED ICE PITCHERS,	
For Holiday Gifts, large size, handsomely engraved. $5, $5, $5, $5.	5 00
Silver Plated Cake Baskets for Holiday Gifts	4 50
Silver Plated Tea Sets, 6 pieces, for Holiday Gifts	15 00
Silver Plated Casters, 6 cut bottles, for Holiday Gifts	4 50
Silver Plated COFFEE URNS,	
for Holiday gifts, new pattern, finely chased $10, $10, $10, $10, $10.	$10 00
Silver-plated Teaspoons, for Holiday gifts, the doz.	1 25
Silver-plated Table-Spoons, for Holiday gifts, the doz.	4 00
Silver-plated Table-Forks, for Holiday gifts, the doz.	4 00
Ivory-handle Table-Knives, for Holiday gifts, the doz.	4 50
Ivory-handle Tea-Knives, for Holiday gifts, the doz.	4 00

ALSO,

An elegant variety of

FRENCH CHINA VASES,
for Holiday Gifts.
BISQUE FIGURES,
for Holiday Gifts.
BRONZE FIGURES
For Holiday Gifts.
PARIAN MARBLE FIGURES
For Holiday Gifts,
BOHEMIAN GLASSWARE
For Holiday Gifts.
BRONZE AND MARBLE CLOCKS
For Holiday Gifts,

Together with a complete stock of

CHINA DINNER SETS,
Rich and Plain Cut
TABLE GLASS, &c., &c.,
At popular prices.

W. J. F. DAILEY & CO.,
No. 631 Broadway.

ESQUIMAUX BEAVER

CLOAKS AT POPULAR PRICES.

United States Cloak and Mantilla Store,

Nos. 304 and 306 Canal-st.

GEO. CAREY.

DRESS GOODS AND EMBROIDERIES,

FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

LE BOUTILLIER BROTHERS have now ready, some of the greatest bargains in Reps, Foulardines, Plaids, Printed Merinos, De Laines, Prints and other new Dress Materials.

ALSO

An immense assortment of

EMBROIDERED COLLARS, EMBROIDERED SETS and EMBROIDERED HANDKERCHIEFS,

at much less than cost.

KID GLOVES, CLOTH GLOVES, LINED GLOVES, HOSIERY, &c.

No. 305 Canal st., near Broadway.

BLACK INDIA SILK

CLOAKS AT POPULAR PRICES.

United States Cloak and Mantilla Store,

Nos. 304 and 306 Canal-st.

GEO. CAREY.

CLOAKS AT RETAIL.

WOODBRIDGE & KEHOE

Offer their stock of

WINTER CLOAKS AT RETAIL,

at the lowest wholesale prices.

No. 336 Broadway, corner of Worth-st.

CLOAKS,

RUSSIAN BEAVER AT POPULAR PRICES.

United States Cloak and Mantilla Store,

Nos. 304 and 306 Canal-st.

GEO. CAREY.

BROCHE SHAWLS.

Long Black Shawls, with Broche Border. Square Wool Shawls, Long Wool Shawls and Scarfs, of all sizes, at the very lowest prices, at

LE BOUTILLIER BROS.,

No. 305 Canal-st., near Broadway.

BLACK BEAVER CLOAKS

AT POPULAR PRICES.

United States Cloak and Mantilla Store,

Nos. 304 and 306 Canal-st.

GEO. CAREY.

ZEPHYR WORSTED, 12 1-2 CENTS; nice fitting corsets, 75 cents; skirts, 50 cents, (best steel.) Also, a large assortment of dress trimmings, velvets, buttons, and small wares, &c. N. B.—Alexander's Gloves. Yarn for soldiers' socks at 75c. per pound. At ELGER'S, Nos. 880 and 882 Broadway, near 18th-st., east side.

FRENCH SEALSKIN

CLOAKS AT POPULAR PRICES.

United States Cloak and Mantilla Store,

Nos. 304 and 306 Canal-st.

GEO. CAREY.

CHOICE FURS. NO. 49 BROADWAY.

Opening at retail of an entirely new stock of Sable, Mink, and other choice furs, in the most desirable styles, much below usual prices.

S. GOGE,

Practical Furrier

BLACK CLOTH CLOAKS

AT POPULAR PRICES,

United States Cloak and Mantilla Store,

Nos. 304 and 306 Canal-st.

GEO. CAREY,

DRY GOODS.

ARNOLD, CONSTABLE & CO.

ARE NOW OFFERING, AT RETAIL,

THEIR ENTIRE STOCK

OF

SHAWLS,

AT GREAT BARGAINS,

CANAL-ST., corner of Mercer.

GREAT REDUCTION IN PRICES

ON

BLACK SILK CLOAK VELVETS.

A large Stock still remaining, (and all of our own importation,) manufactured

EXPRESSLY FOR OUR RETAIL TRADE,

FULL TWENTY PER CENT. UNDER REGULAR PRICES!

The reduction is real, and the assortment most complete

ARNOLD, CONSTABLE & CO.,

CANAL-ST., corner of Mercer.

EVENING DRESSES AND DRESS GOODS.

ARNOLD, CONSTABLE & CO.

Have on hand

A HANDSOME ASSORTMENT

OF

ILLUSION LACE

AND

TARLETAN ROBES,

IN THE LATEST STYLES,

WHICH THEY OFFER AT A QUARTER THE IMPORTATION COST.

Also, a full assortment of TARLETAN and other EVENING DRESS GOODS.

CANAL-ST., corner of Mercer.

NO. 759 BROADWAY.

PRESENTS FOR ALL SEASONS.

And the most agreeable favors for ladies are

TUCKER'S

BRIDAL SETS AND VEILS,

Commencing at $5.

Flowers, for decorative purposes, 12 cents per bunch.

CLOAKS! CLOAKS!! CLOAKS!!!

SPECIAL NOTICE TO THE LADIES.

In addition to our regular stock,

we are now manufacturing

a magnificent assortment of

FRENCH AND ENGLISH BEAVER CLOTH CLOAKS,

superbly adorned with crotchet ornaments, and specially intended for

HOLIDAY GIFTS.

ALSO,

PLUSH, FUR AND SEALSKIN CLOAKS,

now so much worn.

No lady should purchase a CLOAK

without first examining our styles and prices

CLOAKS—CLOAKS—CLOAKS.

At $5, at $6, at $7, at $8, at $10, at $12

CLOAKS AT ALL PRICES.

ALSO

A splendid assortment of

MISSES AND CHILDREN'S CLOAKS.

W. K. PEYTON,

Excelsior Cloak House,

No. 274 Bowery, near Houston-st.

DRESS GOODS FROM AUCTION,

IN GREAT VARIETY, FOR HOLIDAY PRESENTS.

At less than than the cost of importation.

2,000 yards of wool and cotton goods at 1s., worth 2s.

5,000 yards wool and cotton goods from 1s. to 2s.

And all other seasonable fabrics and

NEW STYLES EQUALLY CHEAP.

At Nos. 108 and 110 6th-av.

C. G. HOOK.

HEAVY FRENCH PETERSHAM

CLOAKS AT POPULAR PRICES.

United States Cloak and Mantilla Store,

Nos. 304 and 306 Canal-st.

GEO. CAREY.

MILLER & GRANT, 703 BROADWAY,

WILL OFFER,

ON MONDAY, THE 16TH INST.,

THREAD LACE COLLARS,

THREAD LACE VEILS,

POINT AGUILLE COLLARS,

At one-half their value—suitable for Holiday Gifts.

WOOLEN VELVET

CLOAKS AT POPULAR PRICES.

United States Cloak and Mantilla Store,

Nos. 304 and 306 Canal-st.

GEO. CAREY.

R. H. MACY,

SELLS LADIES' DOLLAR KID GLOVES,

All colors and sizes, for 63 cents; free by mail, 69 cts.

Nos. 204 and 206 6th-av.

No connection with any other store in the City.

CLOAKS.

LYONS VELVET AT POPULAR PRICES.

United States Cloak and Mantilla Store,

Nos. 304 and 306 Canal-st.

GEO. CAREY.

BOARDING AND LODGING.

BOARDING.—A GERMAN FAMILY OF THE highest respectability can accommodate four single gentlemen, or gentlemen and their wives, with elegant rooms and first-class board, (French style,) at No. 20 West 9th-st., between 5th and 6th ave. References exchanged. French and English spoken.

BOARDING.—SUPERIOR ACCOMMODATIONS for a small family, or single persons, at No. 18 East 28th-st. Prices moderate. Persons of religious or strictly moral habits preferred.

BOARDING.—ONE OR TWO GENTLEMEN, OR A gentleman and wife, may obtain a pleasant room, furnished or unfurnished, with board, in a private family. No. 419 West 23d-st., near 9th-av.

BOARD ON BROOKLYN HEIGHTS.—A handsome suite of rooms on second floor—also single rooms suitable for gentlemen, within five minutes' walk of Fulton or Wall-st. Ferries. Apply at No. 11 Monroe-place. References required.

A SMALL PRIVATE FAMILY WOULD let, with board, a large front room and bedroom connecting, with ample closet room, on second floor, to a gentleman and wife, (partial board for gentleman,) or to two gentlemen. Location very desirable and convenient to ferries. Terms very reasonable to desirable parties. Address, with real name and reference, S. L., Brooklyn Post-office.

FRENCH BOARD.—IN THE FAMILY OF A French teacher, (strictly private,) well furnished room on first floor, with modern improvements; a good opportunity for a gentleman wishing to acquire a practical knowledge of the language. References exchanged. Apply at No. 118 East 21st-st.

TWO LADIES WISH BOARD, WHERE lessons on the piano-forte, by one of them, who is an experienced teacher of music, would be received as part payment for the board of one. References given and required. Address MUSIC TEACHER, Madison-square Post-office.

A SUITE OF FURNISHED ROOMS TO LET, on the first or second floor, with or without partial board, to gentlemen. The house contains the modern improvements. Terms moderate. Apply at No. 91 West 11th-st., between 5th and 6th avs.

A PRIVATE FRENCH FAMILY HAVE A handsomely furnished suite of rooms to let, together or separate, with or without board; house first class; terms moderate. References exchanged. Call at No. 46 West 16th-st.

A GENTLEMAN AND WIFE, OR A FEW single gentlemen, may obtain pleasant rooms, with board, in a private family of adults, where the comforts of home may be enjoyed. Apply at No. 127 West 16th-st. References required.

BOARD WANTED—FOR A YOUNG LADY IN a small family in the country. She would require constant care and supervision on account of her health. Address INVALID, Box No. 836 New-York Post-office.

NO. 15 EAST SIXTEENTH-ST.—BETWEEN Broadway and 5th-av., newly and elegantly furnished rooms to let, in suites or single, to gentlemen or families without children.

FRENCH BOARD—IN A SMALL PRIVATE family; house first-class; modern improvements. Price moderate. No. 166 East 33d-st., between 2d and 3d avs.

BOARD WANTED, IN A PRIVATE FAMILY, in a central location, in the City. An unfurnished room with breakfast and supper only required, for a single gentleman. Address E. D., Box No. 4,600 Post-office.

NO. 22 UNION-SQUARE.—A LARGE, WELL-furnished room, overlooking the square, to let, with board. Also, a back room.

A FEW VERY DESIRABLE ROOMS CAN still be secured for the Winter at No. 1 Irving Place, corner of 14th-st.

COAL.

RED AND WHITE ASH COAL.—PURE RED Ash, (Peach Orchard,) genuine Lehigh and Locust Mountain; also, superior Liverpool Orrel and English house Cannel, of late importations, all at lowest market prices. HENRY REEVE,

Corner of Canal and Centre sts., and corner of Jane and West sts.

BEST ENGLISH MAKES OF

ENGLISH RIFLES.

For sale at

NAYLOR & CO.'S,

No. 99 John-st.

TO CAPITALISTS.—A GENTLEMAN HAS AN invention he is desirous to bring before the Government, which would be highly valuable in connection with the war, and also for common use at all times, but lacks sufficient means to bring it into notice. Address Box No. 3,837 Post-office.

CASH PAID FOR OLD NEWSPAPERS, pamphlets and blank books of every description.

STOCKWELL & EMERSON,

No. 25 Ann-st.,

Basement.

WE WOULD CALL ATTENTION OF housekeepers to the large sale of China, glass and plated ware, the contents of C. C. Leigh's China Hall, No. 655 Broadway. A rare chance to purchase holiday presents. Goods now ready for examination.

SITUATIONS WANTED.

FEMALES.

AS CHAMBERMAID.—A RESPECTABLE young woman wishes a situation as chambermaid in a first-class hotel; has no objection to town or country;

FINANCIAL.

HEMINWAY, NORWOOD & CO.,
STOCK AND BOND BROKERS,
No. 53 Exchange-place,
Buy and sell for Cash, or on Time, Stocks, Bonds and Government Securities, at the Board of Brokers, on commission exclusively.

GOVERNMENT CLAIMS ADJUSTED.
Claims upon the War and Navy Departments; the Treasury; Pension, Land and Census Bureaux; and the accounts of Army, Navy and Mail Contractors adjusted in person by our resident agent in Washington,
Hon. HORATIO KING,
late Postmaster-General of the United States.
JOHN B. MURRAY, Army and Navy Banker,
No. 39 Nassau-st., opposite the Post-office.
Claims are made up and forwarded to Washington daily.

BROWN BROTHERS & CO.,
NO. 59 WALL-ST.,
ISSUE COMMERCIAL AND TRAVELERS' CREDITS FOR USE IN THIS COUNTRY AND ABROAD

CONTRACTORS' BILLS
For Army and Navy supplies collected cheaply and expeditiously, or purchased on favorable terms, by
LIVERMORE, CLEWS & MASON,
Nos. 41 and 43 Wall-st., New-York

PROPOSALS FOR $250,000 OF THE CROTON WATER STOCK OF THE CITY OF NEW-YORK.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Comptroller's Office until FRIDAY, Dec. 20, 1861, at 2 o'clock P. M., when the same will be publicly opened, for the whole or any part of the sum of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars ($250,000) of the Croton Water Stock of the City of New-York, authorized by chapter 373 of the laws of 1860, and as amended by chapter 181 of the laws of 1861, and by an ordinance of the Common Council, approved by the Mayor, Oct. 4, 1861, for increasing the supply of Croton Water, &c.

The said stock will bear interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum, payable quarter-yearly, and the principal will be redeemable on the first day of November, 1865.

The proposals will state the amount of stock desired, and the price per one hundred dollars thereof; and the persons whose proposals are accepted will be required to deposit with the Chamberlain of the City, within six days after the opening of the bids, the sum awarded to them respectively. On presenting to the Comptroller the receipts of the Chamberlain for such deposits, the parties will be entitled to receive certificates for equal amounts of the par value of the stock, bearing interest from the date of payments.

Each proposition should be sealed and indorsed "Proposals for Croton Water Stock of the City of New-York," and the same inclosed in a second envelope addressed to the Comptroller.

The right is reserved to reject any or all of the bids, if considered necessary to protect or promote the interests of the City.
ROBERT T. HAWS, Comptroller.
City of New-York, Department of Finance, Comptroller's Office, Nov. 19, 1861.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT, TREASURY OFFICE, HARTFORD, Nov. 20, 1861.

SALE OF STATE STOCKS.—SEALED PROposals for the purchase of $1,200,000 of the Bonds of the State of Connecticut, will be received at the Office of the Treasurer in Hartford, until the 30th day of December, at noon, when said proposals will be opened in the presence of such bidders as may choose to attend, and the bonds awarded to the highest bidders.

The proposals must be accompanied with certificates of deposit or certified checks on solvent Banks in the States of Connecticut or Massachusetts or the City of New-York of 5 per cent. of the amount subscribed to be held as security for the faithful fulfillment of the bid, and returned to the owners on their order.

It is provided that no bid shall be accepted at less than the par value of the bonds, and full payment, in funds current in New-York and Boston, will be required within 20 days after notice of acceptance.

The bonds are in denominations of $100, $500 and $1,000, bore dated July 1, 1861, and principle at the Treasurer's Office, in twenty years from date, or at any time after the expiration of 10 years, at the pleasure of the General Assembly, with 6 per cent. coupons attached, payable at the same place in January and July of each year.

This issue completes the $2,000,000 authorized by Act of the General Assembly, at their May Session, and as the State has no public debt, would be met in full by a tax of less than one per cent. on the Grand List of the State.
EZRA DEAN, State Treasurer.
HARTFORD, Nov. 21, 1861.

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY—NEW-YORK, Dec. 5, 1861.—At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY, held at their Office in New-York this day, it was

Resolved, That an assessment of FIVE DOLLARS per share upon the Scrip Shares of the Capital Stock of the Company, be and the same is hereby called payable on the twentieth day of January, 1862; and that the same be payable on the Stock registered in the City of New-York at the Office of the Company in that City; and on the Stock registered in London, at the Office of Messrs. ROBERT BENSON & Co., London; and that parties desiring to pay their assessment in London, may pay the same at a rate of exchange sufficient to produce Four Dollars per share to the Company in the City of New-York.

Resolved, That the transfer books be closed on the afternoon of the 15th January next, and reopened on the 20th day of the same month; and that no transfer be permitted on or after that day of shares upon which the foregoing assessment shall not have been paid.
THOMAS E. WALKER, Treasurer.

The eighty-dollar certificates to be returned on payment of the above.

NEW-YORK AND ERIE RAILROAD FOURTH MORTGAGE.—Holders of Trustees' Certificates for Fourth Mortgage Coupons in arrear are notified that on and after the 16th inst., payment will be made at the office of the Receiver, at the foot of Duane-st., of the Coupons of April and October, 1859, for which certificates have been issued (with interest from May 1, 1861, to Dec. 15, 1861,) out of the balance in the Trustees' hands from assessments, and out of the net earnings of the road applicable to that purpose, under the order of the Supreme Court—Dec. 13, 1861.
DUDLEY S. GREGORY,
J. C. BANCROFT DAVIS, } Trustees.

NOTICE.—THE BANK OF MONTREAL HAVING established an agency at Chicago, is prepared to do a general Banking business, and, in connection therewith, will attend to the collection of commercial paper in all accessible points throughout the West. Collections in interior points will be at the risk of owners, care being used in selecting the most reliable medium.
CHICAGO, Oct. 10, 1861. E. W. WILLARD, Agent.
Referring to the above, we are prepared to draw, purchase and collect upon Chicago on favorable terms.
We also purchase and collect upon the Canadas, and issue drafts payable upon the various branches of the Bank of Montreal and the Union Bank of London.
RICHARD BELL and A. OGILVIE,
No. 32 Pine-st.,
Agents for the Bank of Montreal, New-York.

OFFICE OF TRUSTEES OF THE ASSENTING CREDITORS OF THE LA CROSSE AND MILWAUKEE R. R. CO., No. 29 William-st.

HOLDERS OF LAND GRANT, AND OF the 2d Mortgage Eastern Division, Bonds, not deposited with the Trustees, under the agreement of Oct. 5, 1861, before the 21st of December, 1861, are hereby notified that they will be required to pay in cash an assessment on all bonds presented to us, for the benefit of that agreement, after that date, for the purpose of paying expenses incurred by delay and litigation. By order of the Trustees.
Dec. 9, 1861. N. A. COWDREY, Sec.

FIFTY-FIFTH DIVIDEND—BROOKLYN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.—At a meeting of the Board of Directors, held at their office, No. 16 Merchants' Exchange, New-York, on Tuesday, Dec. 10, 1861, it was

Resolved, That the usual Dividend of Ten (10) per cent. be paid upon the capital stock of the Company, on and after the 2d day of January next, out of the profits for the last six months, leaving a balance of said earnings of 3½ per cent., which is added to the surplus fund.
By order, WM. F. LEGGETT, Secretary.

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD CO., NEW-YORK, Oct. 29, 1861.

HOLDERS OF THE STOCK OF THIS company, as registered upon the books of the company at the close of business on the 15th day of January, 1862, will be entitled to Canceled Bonds Scrip for five dollars upon each share of stock held by them deliverable on or after the 1st day of February next; and parties holding certificates are hereby notified to have the same registered in their own names on or before the said 15th day of January.
THOMAS E. WALKER, Treasurer.

OFFICE OF CHICAGO AND ROCK ISLAND RAILROAD CO., NEW-YORK, Dec. 5, 1861.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE Chicago and Rock Island Railroad Company have this day declared a Dividend of Three (3) Per Cent. on the Capital Stock of the Company, payable at their office, on the 20th day of December, instant.

The Transfer Books will be closed on the afternoon of the 11th inst., and reopened on the morning of Saturday, the 21st inst. FRANCIS H. TOWS, Secretary.

IRVING SAVINGS INSTITUTION—NO. 96 WARREN-ST.—interest allowed at the rate of 6 per cent. on sums from $1 to $500, and 5 per cent. on sums over that amount. Open daily, from 10 A. M. to 2 P. M. Also on Monday, Thursday and Saturday evenings, from 6 to 7 P. M. JOHN CASTREE, President.
WILLIAM M. PULLIS, } Vice-Presidents.
SYLVANUS S. WARD, }
VANDERBILT L. BUXTON, Secretary.

DIVIDEND.—THE KNICKERBOCKER ICE COMPANY have declared a Dividend of Four (4) per Cent., payable on and after the 20th of December. The transfer books will be closed from the 10th to the 20th inst., inclusive.
R. T. COMPTON, President.
THEO. BROWNING, Secretary.
NEW-YORK, Dec. 9, 1861.

MARINERS' SAVINGS BANK, NO. 1 3d-av., opposite the Cooper Institute. Deposits made on or before the 1st of January will bear interest from that date.
BANK OPEN DAILY from 9 to 2 P. M. and on MONDAY, WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY EVENINGS from 6 to 8 o'clock. THOS. B. STILLMAN, President.
ISAAC T. SMITH, Secretary.

OFFICE OF THE HOWARD INSURANCE COMPANY, NEW-YORK, Nov. 27, 1861.

DIVIDEND.—THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS have this day declared a semi-annual dividend of ten (10) per cent. upon the Capital Stock of the Company, payable at the office, No. 66 Wall-st., on and after MONDAY, Dec. 2, 1861. HENRY A. OAKLEY, Secretary.

OFFICE OF THE NORTH AMERICAN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, No. 6 WALL-ST., NEW-YORK, Dec. 3, 1861.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAVE this day declared an interest dividend of (4) four per cent., payable on demand. R. W. BLEECKER, Secretary.

NOTICE.—HOLDERS OF MILWAUKEE CITY Bonds, issued to the Milwaukee and Mississippi Railroad Company, may exchange the same for Second Preferred Stock of the Milwaukee and Prairie du Chien Railway Company, by applying to W. SCHALL & CO., Nos. 58 and 60 Exchange-place.

COLLECTIONS IN WASHINGTON, D. C.—Claims on any of the Departments, Quartermasters' accounts, and Notes payable in Washington, D. C., collected with promptness and on reasonable terms by RIGGS & CO., No. 56 Wall-st.

APPROVED BILLS FOR SUPPLIES FURNished the War and Navy Departments cashed by JOHN B. MURRAY,
No. 39 Nassau-st., opposite the Post-office.

INCOME BONDS BUFFALO STATE LINE RAILROAD COMPANY cashed by H. T. MORGAN & CO., William-st., at 90 cents.

MEDICAL.

AFFLICTED RESTORED! IGNORANCE EXPOSED! FALLACIES UNMASKED!

HIGHLY IMPORTANT TO BOTH SEXES, married or single, in health or disease. DR. LARMONT'S Paris, London and New-York Medical Adviser and Marriage Guide. (56th edition, 600 pages, 100 Anatomical illustrations,) upon Mental and Nervous Debility, Loss of Memory, Incapacity, Urinary Deposits, Involuntary Loss of Semen, nights, with the urine, or at stool; Impotency, Affections of the Bladder and Kidneys, Strictures, Gleet, Gonorrhœa, Syphilis, primary and constitutional, &c.

Among its contents is the anatomy of the sexual organs of the male and female—all their diseases and weaknesses; latest discoveries in reproduction; European hospital practice; quacks, advertisers, their recipes and specifics; the author's unequaled Paris and London treatment, &c.

All who would avoid unsuccessful and barbarous treatment with Mercury, Copaiba, Injections, Cauterizations, Quack Specifics, Antidotes, Instruments, &c., should purchase this valuable work, for $1, of RICHARDSON, No. 1 Vesey-st.; ROSS & TOUSEY, No. 121 Nassau-st.; H. DEXTER & CO., No. 115 Nassau-st., New-York; and DE WITT, No. 13 Frankfort-st.; or consult the Doctor, at No. 647 Broadway, (up stairs,) New-York, from 9 A. M. to 6 P. M.

"We concur with other papers in recommending Dr. LARMONT and his work."—*Courier des Etat Unis, German Die Reform, Dispatch, Staats Zeitung, National Democrat, Atlas, Medical Review, &c.*

NERVOUS AND SPECIAL DISEASES, MARRIAGE, &c.

By C. D. HAMMOND, M. D., Ex-Professor of Special Pathology in the Syracuse Medical College, New-York. Price $1. GODFREY, Bookseller, No. 831 Broadway, or of the author, at No. 658 Broadway.

TRIESEMAR.—PROTECTED BY ROYAL LETters patent of England, and secured by the seals of the École de Pharmacie de Paris and the Imperial College of Medicine, Vienna. TRIESEMAR No. 1 is the effectual remedy for RELAXATION of SPERMATORRHŒA and EXHAUSTION OF THE SYSTEM. TRIESMAR No. 2 completely and entirely eradicates all traces of those disorders for which Copaiva and Cubebs have generally been thought an antidote, to the ruin of the health of a vast portion of the population. TRIESEMAR No. 3 is the great and sure remedy of the civilized world for all impurities of the system, as well as secondary symptoms; obviating the destructive use of Mercury, as well as other deleterious ingredients, and which all the Sarsaparilla in the world cannot remove. They are in the form of a lozenge, and may lie on the toilet table without their use being suspected. Sold in tin cases at $3 each, or four $3 cases in one for $9, and in $27 cases, thus saving $9, as administered by Valpeau, Lallemand, Roux, &c., &c. Wholesale and retail by Dr. H. A. BARROW, No. 194 Bleecker-st., (four doors from Macdougal-st.,) New-York. Immediately on receipt of remittance, forwarded to any part of the world. Attendance and consultation from 11 to 2, and from 4 till 8 in the evening, and on Sunday till 11. Triesemar can also be obtained, by authority of Dr. Barrow, from
WELLS & CO.,
No. 115 Franklin-st., New-York,
And J. WORTHINGTON,
No. 206 Fulton-st., Brooklyn.

PRIVATE CONSULTATION.—DR. HUNTER has, for thirty years, confined his attention to diseases of a certain class, in which he has treated no less than fifty thousand cases, without an instance of failure. His great remedy, HUNTER'S RED DROP, cures certain diseases when regular treatment and all other remedies fail; cures without dieting or restriction in the habits of the patient; cures without the disgusting and sickening effects of all other remedies; cures in new cases in less than six hours; cures without the dreadful consequent effects of mercury, but possesses the peculiarly valuable property of annihilating the rank and poisonous taint that the blood is sure to absorb, unless his remedy is used. This is what he claims for it, and what no other will accomplish. Its value in this respect has become so well known, that scientific men in every department of medical knowledge begin to appreciate its merits. No week passes that he is not consulted by druggists, chemists and physicians, in regard to some pitiful patient, who has exhausted the whole field of the faculty, and still the disease will appear. Its popularity is so great, that there is not a quack doctor in the City that has not attacked it; and when they find their lies are not so easily swallowed, they then pretend that they have an make it. It is $1 a vial, and cannot be obtained genuine anywhere but at the old office, No. 3 Division-st. Book for 15 three cent stamps, 300 pages, 100 colored illustrations. The best work out.

"NEW MEDICAL BOOK.—DR. BOSTWICK'S Work on Seminal Diseases, Hints Before and After Marriage, Nervous Debility, Impotency and Kindred Affections, &c., &c., is before us, and we do not hesitate to say it is without exception the most truthful and useful work of the kind ever published, and it will be hailed by the profession as well as the public as a great benefactor to mankind. Quackery is here exposed and the truth told. It should be in every family, and in the hands of every young man and woman in the land."—*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

Mailed by Richardson, No. 1 Vesey-st.; Godfrey's, No. 831 Broadway; and by Dr. B. at his office, No. 35 East 12th-st., six doors west of Broadway, where Dr. B. will continue the practice of medicine and surgery. Price $1. All interviews and communications strictly confidential.

DR. COBBETT, MEMBER OF THE N. Y. University, (Medical College,) and Royal College of Surgeons, London, has removed from No. 19 Duane-st., to his present very convenient suite of offices at No. 20 Centre-st., between Chambers and Reade sts., with a private entrance at No. 6 City Hall-place, where he can be consulted with the most honorable confidence on all diseases affecting the urinary organs; thirty years in his present specialty, (three of which have been at the Hospitals of this City,) enable him to guarantee a cure in every case undertaken, or make no charge. Strictures of the urethra, impotency, seminal weaknesses, &c., treated on the most scientific principles. N. B.—As a proof of Dr. C.'s qualifications, he would call special attention to his Diplomas, which can be seen in his office.

DR. COOPER, NO. 14 DUANE-ST., MAY BE confidently consulted on all diseases of a private nature. A practice of 30 years, devoted to the treatment and cure of Syphilitic, Mercurial, and diseases of a delicate nature, enables Dr. C. to make speedy and permanent cures, no matter of how long standing the case may be. Strictures of the urethra and seminal weakness, brought on by a secret habit, effectually cured. The victims of misplaced confidence, who have been misled by quack advertisements, can call on Dr. C. with the certainty of being radically cured. N. B.—Dr. C. is a qualified physician and surgeon, and a member of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New-York. Office hours from 8 A. M. to 9 P. M.

IMPORTANT TO THE MARRIED AND THOSE ABOUT TO BE MARRIED.—Dr. A. M. MAURICEAU, Professor of Diseases of Women, has just published the 160th edition of the valuable book, entitled "THE MARRIED WOMAN'S PRIVATE MEDICAL COMPANION," strictly intended for those whose health or circumstances forbid a too rapid increase of family. Price $1. Sold at his office, No. 129 Liberty-st., New-York; or can be sent by mail free of postage, to any part of the United States and Canada, by inclosing $1, and addressing Box No. 1,224 New-York City. For sale by H. RICHARDSON, at No. 1 Vesey-st., (Astor House,) and No. 18 Ann-st.

AN ACT OF GRATITUDE.—20,000 COPIES of a medical book for gratuitous circulation, by a Sufferer, who has been effectually cured of nervous debility, loss of memory, and dimness of sight, resulting from early errors, by following the instructions given in a medical work, considers it his duty, in gratitude to the author, and for the benefit of consumptives and nervous sufferers, to publish the means used. He will, therefore, send free to any address, on receipt of two stamps, a copy of the work, containing every information required. Address Box No. 579 Post-office, Albany, N. Y.

EDWARD H. DIXON, M. D., EDITOR OF the Scalpel, and Operating and Consulting Surgeon, No. 42 5th-av. Office consultations on the more obscure diseases of the pelvic viscera. Rupture, piles, varicocele, and fistula, radically cured without the knife or ligature. Office hours from 8 to 9, 1 to 3, and 7 to 9 evenings. Consultation fee, $5.

A PERFECT CURE IS GUARANTEED.—A radical cure is always effected by Dr. WARD, who cures, besides, in half the usual time and at half the charge of his office for the protection and effectual treatment of those suffering under certain diseases, is at No. 12 Laight-st., where he continually attends, and will be found a friend and qualified physician to all applying.

HO, YOUNG MAN!—YOU CAN NEVER BE cured by medicine. What you need is information. Knowledge is power. Read a tract I will send you for a dime, (no stamps,) and learn how you may avoid ruin without a doctor. LA ROY SUNDERLAND, Boston, Mass.

SOMETHING FOR EVERY LADY.—DR. WARD'S Great Benefactor. The great periodical remedy, infallible for the immediate removal of monthly obstructions. Office No. 12 Laight-st., near Canal, where Dr. WARD can be consulted confidentially, day or evening

INSURANCE.

CONTINENTAL
INSURANCE COMPANY,
CITY OF NEW-YORK.
Office, No. 102 Broadway, between Wall and Pine sts.
Stock Capital, (all paid in,)..... $500,000
Assets, Nov. 1, 1861..... 1,047,436
Liabilities..... 14,560
Insures Buildings, Merchandise, Household Furniture, Rents, Leases, and other insurable property, at the lowest rates consistent with security, and divides
THREE-FOURTHS OF THE NET PROFITS
of the business annually to holders of its policies, in scrip bearing interest.

1st Dividend to customers, July 9, 1857,				33⅓ per cent.
2d	"	"	" 8, '58, 50	"
3d	"	"	" 14, '59, 50	"
4th	"	"	" 12, '60, 45	"
5th	"	"	" 5, '61, 35	"

GEORGE T. HOPE, Pres.
H. H. LAMPORT, Sec.
CYRUS PECK, Assist. Sec.

LEGAL NOTICES.

IN PURSUANCE OF AN ORDER OF THE Surrogate of the County of New-York, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against MALTBY GELSTON, late of the City of New-York, gentleman, deceased, to present the same, with vouchers thereof, to the subscriber, at the office of Henry R. Winthrop, Esq., No. 51 William-st., in the City of New-York, on or before the 10th day of January next.—Dated New-York, July 1, 1861.
MARGARET L. GELSTON, Executrix.
MARY J. GELSTON, Executrix.
jy2—law-6mTu.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

NEW-YORK HYGIENIC ASSOCIATION.—The third regular meeting will be held at No. 583 Hudson-st., THIS (Tuesday) EVENING, at 7 o'clock. Speakers: Dr. Trall, Rev. Mr. Dewey, Dr. McKay, and others. A general attendance is desired.
E. F. DEWEY, President.

SKATES.

SKATES.—LADIES' AND GENTLEMEN'S FINE English Skates for sale to the trade by WILLIAM IRVING, No. 20 Cliff and No. 245 Pearl-st., New-York.

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE FOR REAL estate, or other property, a claim now pending in the Court of Appeals for $8,000, considered perfectly good. Apply at No. 64 Wall-st., basement.

PROPOSALS.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, OFFICE LIGHT-HOUSE BOARD, Dec. 5, 1861.

SEALED PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED at this office until 1 o'clock P. M. on MONDAY, the 6th day of January, 1862, for supplying the Light-house Establishment with seventy thousand gallons of the best quality, pure, Winter-strained Sperm Oil, to be divided into three lots, and to be delivered at the times undermentioned, alongside the Government supply-vessels, or at the warehouse or other place of deposit, to be designated by the Inspecting Officer or other authorized agent of the Light-house Board, in strong, tight, well-made casks, suitable for shipping, in good order, of an average capacity, each of from eighty to one hundred gallons.

Either lot or all of them may be delivered at New-York, New-London, Sag Harbor, Boston, New-Bedford, Edgartown, or Nantucket, at the option of the bidders. The place of delivery must be distinctly stated in the bids, and will be embraced in the contracts.

The three lots will be delivered as follows, viz:

Lot No. 1, (23,000) twenty-three thousand gallons on the 1st day of April, 1862, or as soon thereafter as the proper tests and gauging can be completed.

Lot No. 2, (32,000) thirty-two thousand gallons on the 1st day of June, 1862, or as soon thereafter as the proper tests and gauging can be completed.

Lot No. 3, (15,000) fifteen thousand gallons on the 1st day of October, 1862, or as soon thereafter as the proper tests and gauging can be completed.

No part of the oil proposed for and to be embraced in the contracts under this advertisement will be accepted, received, or paid for, unless it shall have been proved to the entire satisfaction of the person or persons charged with its examination, test, and inspection, to be the best quality pure Winter strained or bagged sperm oil, free from mixture with other or inferior oils and adulterations, and that it will remain in a sufficiently fluid state for free burning in lamps at a temperature of 32° or lower of Fahrenheit's standard thermometer.

The usual means for determining the character and quality of the oil will be employed, viz: for specific gravity, by burning to determine the length of time the oil will burn in untrimmed capillary or jacket lamps, the amount of residuum in each lamp after it burns out, and, if necessary, any proper tests to arrive at correct conclusions that may be deemed necessary.

The casks must be gauged, under the direction and personal supervision of the inspecting officer, by a customhouse or other legally authorized and sworn gauger, according to the United States standard, and must be marked and accepted before they are removed from the cellar or warehouse of the contractor.

Proposals will be received and considered for each lot separately, or for all of them, at the option of the bidder; but no bid will be considered for a less quantity than that specified as one lot, to be delivered at one time and place. Each bid must state explicitly the rate per gallon, in writing, the number of lot or lots bid for, and the time and place of delivery, conforming to this advertisement.

Bids submitted by different members of the same firm or copartnership will not be considered.

The Light-house Board, under the authority of the Department, reserves the right to reject any bid, although it may be the lowest, for other considerations than the price.

No bid will be considered for any other kind or description of oil than that specifically called for in this advertisement.

A bond, with security to the satisfaction of the Department, in a penalty equal to one-fifth of the amounts of each contract made under these proposals, will be required of each contractor, conditioned for the faithful performance of the contract, to be executed within ten days after the acceptance of the bid.

Every offer must be accompanied by a written guarantee, signed by one or more responsible persons, and known to the Department as such, or certified by a United States District Judge, Attorney, Navy Agent, or Collector of the Customs, to the effect that, if the bid or bids be accepted, the bidder or bidders will duly execute a contract in good faith, according to the provisions and terms of this advertisement, within ten days after acceptance; and that in case the said party or parties offering shall fail to enter into the contract as aforesaid, he or they guarantee to make good the difference between the offer of the said party or parties and the next lowest bidder. All bids must be sealed and indorsed "Proposals for oil for lighthouses," and then placed in another envelope, and directed, prepaid, to the Secretary of the Light-house Board, Washington City.

All bids will be opened, publicly, at the hour and on the day specified.

Payments will be made for the several lots of oil within thirty days after they shall have been received by the United States.

By order of the Light-house Board.
THORNTON A. JENKINS, Secretary.

FORM OF OFFER.

I, (or we,) ——, of ——, State of ——, hereby offer and agree to furnish and deliver at ——, agreeably to the provisions, and in conformity to the terms, of the advertisement of the ——, from the office of the Lighthouse Board. Should —— offer or bid be accepted, —— request to be informed at ——, and that the contract may be forwarded to ——, for signature and certificate. (Signature.)
(Place.)
(Date.)

FORM OF GUARANTEE.

We, the undersigned, residents of ——, in the State of ——, hereby jointly and severally covenant with the United States, and guaranty that in case the foregoing —— of ——, be accepted, ——— will within ten days after the acceptance of said ——— execute a contract for the same, with good and sufficient sureties, to deliver the ——— of oil proposed, in conformity to the terms of the advertisement hereto appended, under which it was made. And in case the said ——— shall fail to enter into a contract as aforesaid, we guaranty to make good the difference between the offer of the said ——— and the next lowest bidder.
Witness:
} Sureties.
(Place.)
(Date.)

I hereby certify, that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the above named guarantors are good and sufficient. (Signature.)
(Place.)
(Date.)

ARMY CLOTHING AND EQUIPAGE OFFICE.—Philadelphia, Dec. 9, 1861.—Proposals are invited at this office, until the 20th instant, for Zouave Leggings of Russet Leather, or other suitable material; and of Linen or Russia Sheeting: to be 11½ inches high. Samples of the Leggings to be sent with the proposals, stating prices.
G. H. CROSMAN,
Deputy Quartermaster-General.

RAILROADS.

NEW-YORK, HARLEM & ALBANY R. R. FOR ALBANY, TROY, NORTH AND WEST.
Winter Arrangement, commencing Monday, Nov. 4, 1861.
For Albany—10:30 A. M. Express Mail Train, from 26th-st. depôt.
For all local trains, see time-table.
JOHN BURCHILL, Ass't. Sup't.

NEW-YORK AND ERIE RAILROAD.—Passenger trains from foot of Chambers-st., as follows, viz: 7 A. M., Express, for Buffalo; 8:15 A. M., Mail; 9:15 A. M., Milk, daily; 11 A. M., Accommodation, daily; 3:30 P. M., Way, for Middletown, Newburgh and intermediate stations; 5 P. M., Night Express daily, for Dunkirk, Buffalo, Canandaigua, and principal stations. The train of Saturday runs through to Buffalo, but does not run to Dunkirk. 7 P. M., Accommodation.
CHAS. MINOT, General Superintendent.
NATHANIEL MARSH, Receiver.

RARITAN AND DELAWARE BAY RAILROAD, FOR LONG BRANCH, SHREWSBURY, SQAN, TOMS RIVER, &c.—On and after Monday, Oct. 28, the NAUSHON will leave New-York at 3 P. M., connecting at Port Monmouth with cars for the above places. Returning, Express train will leave Bergen at 6:50 A. M., and Long Branch at 7:25 A. M. Freight train leaves Bergen at 12½ P. M.

HUDSON RIVER RAILROAD.—FOR ALBANY, TROY, THE NORTH AND WEST.
Trains leave:

FROM CHAMBERS-ST.	FROM THIRTIETH-ST.
Express, 7 and 11 A. M., and 3:15 and 5 P. M.	7:25, 11:30 A. M., and 3:40 and 5:30 P. M.
Troy and Albany, (with sleeping car,) 10:15 P. M.	10:40 P. M. Sundays (included.)

LONG ISLAND RAILROAD—CHANGE OF TERMINUS.—Leave James-slip and 34th-st. Ferries, New-York, at 9:30 A. M., for Greenport; 9:30 A. M. and 3:30 P. M. for North Islip, and Saturday to Yaphank; 9:30 A. M. and 3:30 P. M. for Syosset; 9:30 A. M., and 3:30 and 5 P. M. for Hempstead; 9:30 A. M., 3:30, 5 and 6 P. M. for Jamaica. Trains leave Hunter's Point on arrival of boat from James-slip.

NORTHERN RAILROAD OF NEW-JERSEY.—Trains leave Jersey City for Piermont at 9:15 A. M. and 12:05, 4:25 and 6:05 P. M.; for Nunsey at 4:25 P. M., and for Suffern at 9:15 A. M. T. W. DEMAREST, Supt.

STEAMBOATS.

SHREWSBURY—DECEMBER AND JANUARY —HIGHLANDS, PORT WASHINGTON, MOUNT'S AND BROWN'S DOCK, FAIRHAVEN AND RED BANK.—The new and splendid steamer, HIGHLAND LIGHT, Capt. H. B. PARKER, will run as follows, from foot of Robinson-st., North River:

LEAVE NEW-YORK.	LEAVE RED BANK.
Friday,* Dec. 13, 2 P. M.	Friday, Dec. 13, 12¾ P. M.
Saturday, Dec. 14, 2 P. M.	Monday, Dec. 16, 7½ A. M.
Monday, Dec. 16, 2 P. M.	Tuesday, Dec. 17, 8 A. M.
Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2¾ P. M.	Wednesday, Dec. 18, 8 A. M.
Thursday, Dec. 19, 9 A. M.	Friday, Dec. 20, 8½ A. M.
Saturday, Dec. 21, 10½ A. M.	Monday, Dec. 23, 8½ A. M.
Tuesday, Dec. 24, 9 A. M.	Tuesday, Dec. 24, 12½ P. M.
Wednesday, Dec. 25, 9 A. M.	Wednesday, Dec. 25, 1½ P. M.
Thursday, Dec. 26, 10 A. M.	Thursday, Dec. 26, 1½ P. M.
Friday, Dec. 27, 10½ A. M.	Friday, Dec. 27, 2 P. M.
Saturday, Dec. 28, 2 P. M.	Monday, Dec. 30, 7½ A. M.
Monday, Dec. 30, 2 P. M.	Tuesday, Dec. 31, 8 A. M.
Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2:20 P. M.	Thursday, Jan. 2, 8½ A. M.
Friday, Jan. 3, 7 A. M.	Friday, Jan. 3, 10 A. M.
Saturday, Jan. 4, 11 A. M.	Monday, Jan. 6, 8½ A. M.

The LAURA will connect for Ocean House, Pleasure Bay and Long Branch, five minutes before HIGHLAND LIGHT.

Fare to Eatontown and Shrewsbury, by H. Johnson's stages and steamers, 35 cents through. Tickets on the boat.

NIGHT BOAT TO NEW-HAVEN.—THE TRAVELER leaves at 11 P. M., arriving in time for morning trains. CONTINENTAL leaves at 3 P. M. Train for Meriden and Hartford leaves New-Haven at 11 P. M.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE.

FOR SALE—THE THREE-STORY DWELLING No. 22 West Washington-place. Contains all the modern improvements. It is in a most desirable neighborhood, and has just been put in complete order throughout. Will be sold on moderate terms, and immediate possession given. Apply at No. 29 Maiden-lane, WEYMAN & GODDARD.

FOR SALE AND TO LET.—A STORE TO LET on 8th-av., 18x65; also, two shop rooms, one 18x25, and one 25x40 in 33d-st.; and several houses and lots for sale in different parts of the City, at very low prices; also, a fine place at Mount Vernon, will trade for City property. Apply to WILLIAM BEDELL, No. 177 West 33d-st.

COUNTRY RESIDENCES.

ORANGE, N. J.—FURNISHED AND UNFURnished houses, beautifully situated, one hour from New-York, to let for the season or year; also, country seats, farms and villa sites to rent and for sale low, by HENRY B. BLACKWELL, No. 49 William-st., New-York, 9 to 11 A. M.: No. 49 Main-st., Orange, 1 to 5 P. M.

REFINED BENSOLE, COAL OIL AND PETROLEUM, for sale by the Empire Oil Company. Office No. 126 Maiden-lane.

SHIPPING.

THE BRITISH AND NORTH AMERICAN ROYAL MAIL STEAMSHIPS.

PASSPORTS.—All persons leaving the United States will require to have *Passports* from the authorities of their respective countries, countersigned by the Secretary of State at Washington, or by the Passport Agent at port of embarkation.

FROM NEW-YORK TO LIVERPOOL.
Chief Cabin Passage..... $130
Second Cabin Passage..... 75

FROM BOSTON TO LIVERPOOL.
Chief Cabin Passage..... $110
Second Cabin Passage..... 60

The ships from New-York call at Cork harbor.
The ships from Boston call at Halifax and Cork harbor.

PERSIA, Capt. Judkins.	AFRICA, Capt. Shannon.
ARABIA, Capt. J. Stone.	CANADA, Capt. J. Leitch.
ASIA, Capt. E. G. Lott.	AMERICA, Capt. Muir.
AUSTRALASIAN, Capt. Cook.	NIAGARA, Capt. Moodie.
	EUROPA, Capt. Anderson.

SCOTIA, (now building.)

These vessels carry a clear white light at masthead; green on starboard bow; red on port bow.
CANADA, Muir, leaves Boston, Wednesday, Dec'r. 11.
AFRICA, Shannon, leaves New-York, Wednesday, December 18.
EUROPA, Anderson, leaves Boston, Wednesday, December 25.
AUSTRALASIAN, Cook, leaves New-York, Wednesday, January 1.
NIAGARA, Moodie, leaves Boston, Wednesday, January 8.
ASIA, Lott, leaves New-York, Wednesday, January 15.
Berths not secured until paid for.
An experienced Surgeon on board.
The owners of these ships will not be accountable for Gold, Silver, Bullion, Specie, Jewelry, Precious Stones or Metals, unless bills of lading are signed therefor, and the value therefor therein expressed. For freight or passage, apply to E. CUNARD, No. 4 Bowling Green.

NOTICE TO PASSENGERS FOR EUROPE.

By order of the Secretary of State, all passengers leaving the United States are required to provide themselves with passports before they will be allowed on board the steamer.

Passengers will not be subjected to any trouble or delay in procuring them if they call for instructions at the Company's Offices, No. 15 Broadway, New-York.
JOHN G. DALE, Agent.

STEAM WEEKLY BETWEEN NEW-YORK AND LIVERPOOL—Landing and embarking passengers at Queenstown, Ireland. The Liverpool, New-York and Philadelphia Steamship Company intend dispatching their full-powered Clyde-built Iron Steamships as follows:

GLASGOW..... SATURDAY, Dec. 21
CITY OF NEW-YORK..... SATURDAY, Dec. 28
EDINBURGH..... SATURDAY, Jan. 4
And every SATURDAY, at noon, from Pier No. 44 North River.

RATES OF PASSAGE.

First Cabin	$75	Steerage	$30
First Cabin to London	80	Steerage to London	33
First Cabin to Paris	85	Steerage to Paris	38
First Cabin to Hamburg	85	Steerage to Hamburg	35

Passengers also forwarded to Havre, Bremen, Rotterdam, Antwerp, &c., at equally low rates.

Persons wishing to bring out their friends can buy tickets here at the following rates, to New-York: From Liverpool or Queenstown, First Cabin, $75, $85 and $105. Steerage from Liverpool, $40. From Queenstown, $30.

These Steamers have superior accommodations for passengers, and carry experienced Surge

THE EXPEDITION TO THE GULF.

[Continued from First Page.]

which lies northeast of the lagoon, comprising about one square mile, contains many low, swampy places and fresh water ponds; the few spots which would answer for encamping troops were small, both in number and extent and were not considered sufficient for the purpose of drilling large bodies of men. There were also evidences that during some very high tides, nearly the whole interior portion of it had been submerged. The persistent attention bestowed upon us by a few mosquitoes, was a sufficient intimation of what that insect could accomplish when reinforced by myriads from the surrounding ponds and swamps. The General returned to the steamer with a very unsatisfactory opinion of that particular part of the island for an encampment. The middle woody portion, however, turns out to be much better adapted for the use of the troops, and that will no doubt be soon occupied for that purpose.

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED.

A good wharf for steamers and boats to land at will be absolutely necessary, at the two ends of the island. A considerable part of the material can be found here, but the remainder, such as plank and spiles, must be captured from the enemy, or brought from the North. A railroad from the beach to the encampment—about a half mile—such as is laid at Fortress Monroe, would be a great convenience, as it is very difficult to move heavy articles through the loose sand. Maj. FAHS has laid a plank road, which serves an excellent purpose. Some ox-carts, with wide wheels, would also be useful. Two light-draft steamers, to ply between the two ends of the island, and to visit the other islands, or the opposite shore, are also indispensable. A few good saddle horses would also be handy.

ADDITION TO THE FLEET.

Capt. FLETCHER has turned over to the Quartermaster's Department six large life boats, of the Francis pattern, for the use of the army and the fleet here. They will be used to convey from thirty to fifty armed men apiece, and will be taken in tow by the gunboats in making attacks along the coast. Each boat will be provided with a howitzer. These will prove a valuable addition to the fleet.

CUTTING THE REBEL TELEGRAPH.

As a means of disconcerting the rebels in their communications with Mobile and the North, an expedition was fitted out about the first week in November with a view of cutting off telegraphic communication. Capt. RYDER, of Massachusetts, was placed in charge. A large boat, with a party of marines and sailors from the fleet, and carrying a howitzer, went over to St. Louis Bay, which is crossed by a telegraphic cable. They approached the shore unchallenged, and finding the cable, it was underrun and sixty feet of it cut off and carried away. This act has greatly troubled the rebels.

NAMES OF THE REBEL GUNBOATS, AND WHAT THEY ARE DOING.

There are five boats belonging to the rebel side which are now actively engaged in annoying merchant vessels and steamers, or carrying the mail to and fro in Mississippi Sound, viz.:

The *Arrow*, with two guns.
Pamlico, two guns.
Florida, six guns.
Oregon, three guns.
California, armament not known.

The last two named are mail boats. The *Florida*, the most formidable of this rebel fleet, is in command of CHARLES HAYS, late a lieutenant in the United States Navy. The *Arrow* is commanded by Capt. PITTSFIELD. The names of the other commanders are not known.

The rebel fleet keep a continual watch upon the movements of the United States gunboats which are stationed on the coast, and govern their movements accordingly. A small steam tug seems to be wholly employed in reconnoitering our position at Ship Island; taking account of the number of steamers at anchor in the roads; their position; the arrival and departure of strange vessels, and all other matters of importance for the rebels to know.

This steamer was seen on the day of the arrival of the *Constitution*, waiting off Cat Island, as if to take our dimensions, and then scudding away with great industry toward New-Orleans, to carry the news. She has continued to make her appearance regularly each day since we anchored here, but she only ventures within about three miles to the northwest. As soon as she observes the signal on the *Massachusetts* for the *New-London* to get under way, she takes to her heels, and disappears behind Cat Island in double-quick time.

THE PRISONERS AT SHIP ISLAND.

Since the arrival of the *New-London*, between thirty and forty prisoners have been captured who were either passengers on the steamers, their officers and crews, or persons belonging to the sailing vessels which have also been taken. Thirty or more of these persons were released by order of Commander SMITH, of the *Massachusetts*, and were conveyed across the Sound under a flag of truce and set at liberty. This act has been variously criticised; and some officers of the fleet condemn it as unwise, and calculated to furnish dangerous information to the rebels concerning the position of affairs on our side. Among those detained are:

Capt. JOHN WINTERS, of the steamer *Henry Lewis*.
THOMAS ENGLISH, clerk.
ALFRED BACON, mate, and two firemen.

The officers of the *Anna* detained are Captain SUZARIN, of Pascagoula, his mate and clerk. The captains and mates of the schooner are also held as prisoners, and will be sent with the cargoes of their respective vessels to the nearest Court of Admiralty—probably to Key West—to be used as witnesses in condemning the property.

AFFAIRS ON THE RIVER.

Capt. WINTERS has been over thirty years engaged on vessels on the Mississippi as Captain, and also as pilot on the Rio Grande. He states that the war has entirely ruined the trade with Mississippi. No business is done; the St. Louis and Louisville freighting business is all stopped; the boats all laid up, a very large number of them at New-Orleans; no cotton is allowed to come down, and no pork and beef go up. The latter are $45 to $50 per barrel, coffee $1 a pound, and other things in proportion. The boatmen, having nothing else to do, have all gone in the army. Eight boats were engaged in the trade between New-Orleans and Mobile, at the time the *Lewis* and *Anna* were captured, on the 19th and 28th of November. They have now got frightened, and have hauled off. "The workingmen," says Capt. WINTERS, "have mighty little to say about the war. They dare not speak, but as a class they would rejoice to see the difficulty settled. There is a great deal of suffering among poor families—nobody can tell how bad it is, who has not seen it."

CONTRABANDS.

Several slaves, it is said, who were taken on these steamers and vessels, were sent back to Mississippi, by order of the Commander of the fleet, with their masters, and against their consent. By some law of discrimination, not known to any one except the Commander, eight or ten other slaves are kept employed about the fleet and upon the fort. One old slave woman, who wished to come to the North, where she has some relatives, was refused a passage on board the United States steamer *Connecticut*, Lieut.-Commanding WOODBULL, and she is now engaged (probably at fair wages) in doing washing for the garrison and the fleet. This old woman says the slaves in Mississippi have long been watching and praying for the day of jubilee to come, and now every gun they hear, one exclaims to the other "Tank de Lord, de day is come at last!" On the night of our arrival at Ship Island, a contraband took a small skiff and paddled it across from Biloxi, over ten miles. The boat was a miserable affair, and leaked badly, obliging him to bail with one hand, while he paddled with the other, and when he arrived, he was nearly exhausted from exposure and fatigue.

PROCLAMATION OF BRIGADIER-GENERAL PHELPS.

During the latter part of the trip to Ship Island, Gen. PHELPS, it was observed, spent more than the usual time in his room. He did not come so promptly as the rest of the officers to the table, and when he did appear, seemed more occupied with his own thoughts than with the current of conversation. The cause of this temporary reticence was explained on the day following our arrival at Ship Island, when the General caused to be published an address, or proclamation, to the loyal citizens of the Southwest. Having with him no member of his immediate Staff, he had evidently consulted chiefly his own judgment in putting forth the address. Observing that he was more than usually busy about some interesting matter, your correspondent, in the exercise of that watchfulness which is requisite in the reporter, but, at the same time, with that diffidence not always characteristic of the profession-

seized a favorable moment for putting himself en *rapport* with the commander, and ascertained that he was about to issue a very important paper, defining the *animus* of the expedition to the people of the country. Gen. PHELPS explained that he regarded the occasion as a peculiarly fitting one for setting forth in a frank and, at the same time, a tolerant spirit, the sentiments which would govern his conduct in prosecuting the war against rebellion in the Southwest. Having already reached our destination, and the active duties of providing for the landing of the troops devolving upon him, Gen. PHELPS intrusted his proclamation to your correspondent, with the request that he would copy and circulate it as widely as possible. The document was copied in a plain hand, and on the evening of our arrival in Ship Island Roads, it was read aloud in the presence of the passengers and officers, who were convened in the steamer's saloon. On the following morning, other copies were made, one of which was read to the officers on board the United States steamer *Massachusetts*, in the hearing of several secession prisoners who had been taken on board of the rebel steamers *Henry Lewis*, *Anna* and other prizes in port. A copy was also left on board, for Commander SMITH.

PROCLAMATION OF BRIG.-GEN. PHELPS TO THE PEOPLE OF THE SOUTHWEST.

HEADQUARTERS MIDDLESEX BRIGADE, SHIP ISLAND, MISSISSIPPI, Dec. 4, 1861.

To the loyal citizens of the Southwest:

Without any desire of my own, but contrary to my private inclinations, I again find myself among you as a military officer of the Government. A proper regard for my fellow-countrymen renders it not out of place that I should make known to you the motives and principles by which my command will be governed.

We believe that every State that has been admitted as a Slave State into the Union, since the adoption of the Constitution, has been so admitted in direct violation of that Constitution.

We believe that the Slave States which existed, as such, at the adoption of our Constitution, are, by becoming parties to that compact, under the highest obligations of honor and morality to abolish Slavery.

It is our conviction that monopolies are as destructive as competition is conservative of the principles and vitalities of republican government; that slave labor is a monopoly which excludes free labor and competition; that slaves are kept in comparative idleness and ease in a fertile half of our arable national territory, while free white laborers, constantly augmenting in numbers from Europe, are confined to the other half, and are often distressed by want; that the free labor of the North has more need of expansion into the Southern States, from which it is virtually excluded, than Slavery had into Texas in 1846; that free labor is essential to free institutions; that these institutions are naturally better adapted and more congenial to the Anglo-Saxon race than are the despotic tendencies of Slavery; and, finally, that the dominant political principle of this North American Continent, so long as the Caucasian race continues to flow in upon us from Europe, must needs be that of free institutions and free government. Any obstructions to the progress of that form of government in the United States must inevitably be attended with discord and war.

Slavery, from the condition of a universally recognized social and moral evil, has become at length a political institution, demanding political recognition. It demands rights to the exclusion and annihilation of those rights which are insured to us by the Constitution; and we must choose between them, which we will have, for we cannot have both. The Constitution was made for Freemen—not for Slaves. Slavery, as a social evil, might for a time be tolerated and endured; but as a political institution it becomes imperious and exacting, controlling, like a dread necessity, all whom circumstances have compelled to live under its sway, hampering their action and thus impeding our national progress. As a political institution it could exist as a coördinate part only of two forms of government, viz.: the despotic and the free; and it could exist under a free government only where public sentiment, in the most unrestricted exercise of a robust freedom, leading to extravagance and licentiousness, had swayed the thoughts and habits of the people beyond the bounds and limits of their own moderate consultutional provisions. It could exist under a free government only where the people in a period of unreasoning extravagance had permitted popular clamor to overcome public reason, and had attempted the impossibility of setting up, permanently, as a political institution, a social evil which is opposed to moral law.

By reverting to the history of the past, we find that one of the most destructive wars on record, that of the French Revolution, was originated by the attempt to give political character to an institution which was not susceptible of political character. The Church, by being endowed with political power, with its convents, its schools, its immense landed wealth, its associations, secret and open, became the ruling power of the State, and thus occasioned a war of more strife and bloodshed, probably, than any other war which has desolated the earth.

Slavery is still less susceptible of political character than was the Church. It is as fit at this moment for the lumber-room of the past as was in 1793 the monastery, the landed wealth, the exclusive privilege, etc., of the Catholic Church in France. It behooves us to consider, as a self-governing people, bred, and reared and practiced in the habits of self-government, whether we cannot, whether we *ought* not to revolutionize Slavery out of existence, without the necessity of a conflict of arms like that of the French Revolution.

Indeed, we feel assured that the moment Slavery is abolished, from that moment our Southern brethren, every ten of whom have probably seven relatives in the North, would begin to emerge from a hateful delirium. From that moment, relieved from imaginary terrors, their days become happy, and their nights peaceable and free from alarm; the aggregate amount of labor, under the new stimulus of fair competition, becomes greater day by day; properly rises in value; invigorating influences succeed to stagnation, degeneracy and decay; and union, harmony and peace, to which we have so long been strangers, become restored, and bind us again in the bonds of friendship and amity, as when we first began our national career, under our glorious Government of 1789.

Why do the leaders of the rebellion seek to change the form of your ancient Government? Is it because the growth of the African element of your population has come at length to render a change necessary? Will you permit the free Government under which you have thus far lived, and which is so well suited for the development of true manhood, to be altered to a narrow and belittling despotism, in order to adapt it to the necessities of ignorant slaves, and the requirements of their proud and aristocratic owners? Will the laboring men of the South bend their necks to the same yoke that is suited to the slave? We think not. We may safely answer that the time has not yet arrived when our Southern brethren, for the mere sake of keeping Africans in slavery, will abandon their long cherished free institutions, and enslave themselves.

It is the conviction of my command, as a part of the national forces of the United States, that labor—manual labor—is inherently noble; that it cannot be systematically degraded by any nation without ruining its peace, happiness and power; that free labor is the granite basis on which free institutions must rest; that it is the right, the capital, the inheritance, the hope of the poor man everywhere; that it is especially the right of five millions of our fellow-countrymen in the Slave States as well as of the four millions of Africans there, and all our efforts, therefore, however small or great, whether directed against the interference of Governments from abroad, or against rebellious combinations at home, shall be for Free labor, our motto and our standard shall be, here and everywhere, and on all occasions, FREE LABOR AND WORKINGMEN'S RIGHTS. It is on this basis, and this basis alone, that our munificent Government—the asylum of the nations—can be perpetuated and preserved. J. W. PHELPS,
Brigadier-General of Volunteers, Commanding.

HOW IT WAS RECEIVED.

The sentiments expressed concerning the proclamation were somewhat various, differing according to the position occupied by the persons affected by it, but having reference more to the expediency of putting it forth at this time, than to the doctrines it inculcated. Some expressed the opinion that the Catholic portion of the command would regard one part of it as an attack upon their Church and faith; but it is sufficient to say that the commander of the Ninth Regiment, nearly all of whose men are of that faith, uttered no objection to it on that score, at least in the hearing of your reporter, and very properly regarded as impertinent those who attempted to speak for him. The part of the address referred to he is said to have very sensibly considered the recital of a pertinent historical fact, for the purposes of illustration, and not necessarily an attack upon his faith.

It would be improper, at this distance from the scene of action, to arraign individuals by name, for the course which they saw fit to pursue, but it would be an evasion of the truth to conceal the fact that a somewhat factious opposition to the proclamation was set on foot by one person, to whose agency, mainly, your reporter attributes the difficulties he encountered in promulgating the address on the Mississippi side. Those having the facilities for conveying the address, with a flag of truce, to the rebels, were persistently urged to withhold them, and thus some delay was caused in carrying out the wishes of the commanding General. A copy of the proclamation, however, was deposited in the hands of a judicious officer, who engaged to deliver it as soon as possible to the people on the opposite shore.

Remembering the instructions of *his* superior officer—that it was his "first duty to *write*, and not fight or take part in the movement," your correspondent contented himself with having thus far endeavored to act the civil part towards Gen. PHELPS, and, with this explanation, leaves the proclamation to speak for itself.

WHAT GEN. PHELPS SAID.

On learning that some of the officers had taken up the cudgel against him, Gen. PHELPS quietly remarked, with a slight degree of impatience, "What did they come down here for? Was it to sacrifice their ease, to waste their time, and perhaps to lay down their lives in a war, simply that a few persons may hold slaves? I did not come for any such purpose. I came to *fight*, and if anybody is afraid they had better go home. These people, among whom we have come, do not ask any favors of us, and *I ask none of them*. I did not come here to *steal*, but to tell them just what I mean to do."

It is but justice to say that others of the officers who dissented from the proclamation, expressed that dissent in respectful terms, and proceeded, like good soldiers, in the discharge of their duties, and will continue to do so. A deep and sincere respect is felt for the General, and no one was heard to utter a word detracting from the sincerity of his convictions, or the honesty of his views.

NUMBER OF TROOPS LANDED AND LIST OF THEIR OFFICERS.

According to the last consolidated report, there were on board the *Constitution* 1,908 men, exclusive of servants, consituting the Twenty-sixth Massachusetts, the Ninth Connecticut, and the Massachusetts Fourth Artillery. The list of officers are as follows:

TWENTY-SIXTH MASSACHUSETTS.

Field and Staff—Colonel, EDWARD F. JONES, Pepperell.
Lieutenant-Colonel, Alpha B. Farr, of Lowell.
Major, Josiah A. Sawtelle, Lowell.
Adjutant, George E. Davis, Lowell.
Quartermaster, James Monroe, Cambridge.
Surgeon, Anson P. Hooker, Cambridge;
Assistant-Surgeon, James G. Bradt, Lowell.
Chaplain, ——.
Captains—Eusebius S. Clark, Groton; John Pickering, Lawrence; Thomas H. Annable, Cambridge; Andrew Blood, Lowell; George M. Dickerman, Lowell; Benjamin Warren, Lowell; William H. Chapman, Acton; Henry C. Wilcox, Fall River; Enos W. Thayer, Pawtucket; Stephen R. Fletcher, Wrentham.

NINTH CONNECTICUT VOLUNTEERS.

Field and Staff—Colonel, THOMAS W. CAHILL.
Lieutenant-Colonel, Richard F. Gibbons.
Major, Frederick Frye.
Adjutant, ——.
Surgeon, James Gallagher.
Assistant-Surgeon, Geo. W. Avery.
Quartermaster, William W. Harrall.
Captains—John Duffy, Patrick Garvey, Michael McCasten, Thomas C. Coats, James P. Hennessy, John Foley, Wm. Wright, Silas W. Sawyer, Elliot M. Curtis, John A. Nelson.

FOURTH BATTERY MASSACHUSETTS ARTILLERY.

Captain—CHAS. H. MANNING, Salem.
First Lieutenant—Frederick Wm. Reinhart, Boston.
Second Lieutenant—Joseph G. Sala, Boston.
Third Lieutenant—Henry Davidson, Salem.
Fourth Lieutenant—G. W. Taylor, West Danvers.

GUNBOATS ON THE STATION.

The officers attached to the United States steamer *Massachusetts*, at Ship Island, are as follows:

Commander—MELANCTON SMITH, U. S. N.
Acting Paymaster—John L. Webster.
Acting Assistant Surgeon—John H. Mackie.
Acting Masters—Frederick A. Sampson, C. J. Van Alstine, Stephen A. Ryder, Frank B. Meriam, Moses H. Sawyer.
Acting Masters' Mates—George Godfrey, Oscar W. Bement, John H. Gregory.
Acting First Assistant Engineer—Benjamin Shaw.
Acting Second Assistant Engineers—Richard Ashcroft, Augustus Clapp.
Acting Third Assistant Engineer—Elisha Chappel.
Acting Paymaster's Clerk—Israel Everett Vail.

The officers of the United States steamer *New London* are as follows:

Lieutenant Commander.—ABNER READ, U. S. N.
Acting Masters.—George Thomson, Thomas W. Johnson, Warrington D. Roath.
Acting Assistant Surgeon.—J. Philip Benkard.
Acting Assistant Paymaster.—Minugh Whittemore.
Acting Second Assistant Engineer.—Henry P. Powers.
Acting Third Assistant Engineers.—David M. Howell, John Brooks, Henry Farmer.
Acting Midshipman.—Benjamin F. Day.

Besides these, the steamers *Montgomery*, *R. R. Cuyler* and *De Soto* are doing duty near Ship Island, occasionally calling there to report to the Commander of the fleet.

RETURN OF THE CONSTITUTION.

The *Constitution* left Ship Island Roads Dec. 7. Five lady passengers, the wives of the chief officers of the Twenty-sixth and Ninth Regiments, who had accompanied their husbands, returning in the ship. We made a quick run to Key West, where it was necessary to call for coal, but owing to the delay which would occur, in consequence of several other vessels, viz., the United States steamers *Connecticut* and *Water Witch*, and the sloop-of-war *Richmond*, being ahead of us, it was decided to proceed to Havana. Here we were detained part of two days, and sailed again on the 12th, arriving at Fortress Monroe on Sunday afternoon. A heavy northeast gale prevailed during two days of the trip. The representatives of the Press here left the steamer for New-York, in order to report the results of the expedition. The ship would receive two hundred tons of coal, and sail immediately for Boston, where Maj.-Gen. BUTLER will join the second expedition with the Twelfth Maine Regiment, and a large body of other troops.

CITY AND COUNTY AFFAIRS.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

THE MAYOR ON THE DEFENCES OF THE CITY—HOSPITALITIES TO COL. MULLIGAN—COMPTROLLER'S WEEKLY STATEMENT—APPROPRIATION TO THE HEBREW BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

At a regular meeting of this Board last evening, the Mayor transmitted the following communication relative to the defences of New-York Harbor, which was referred to the Committee on National Affairs, and ordered to be printed in the minutes:

MAYOR'S OFFICE,
NEW-YORK, 16th Dec., 1861.

To the Hon. the Common Council:

GENTLEMEN: The present critical condition of our foreign relations at a time when domestic troubles have impaired the National strength, calls imperatively for prompt and judicious action. I desire to awaken no unnecessary alarm, for I have an unshaken confidence in the unwarying courage and patriotism of the people of New-York. What now is to be done should have been done years ago. On the 4th of February, 1856, appreciating the insecurity of this City from foreign invasion, I felt it my duty to call the attention of the Common Council to the subject of the vast importance of securing the City from hostile attacks. The recommendations therein contained are, in my judgment, based on an irrefutable foundation of sound policy, and their reproduction now is called for by a public emergency which admits of no delay.

OUR DEFENCES.

"In time of peace prepare for war" was the advice of a man who combined, in an extraordinary degree, the qualifications of a patriot, soldier and statesman. We should heed this fatherly counsel, and adopt it with reverence and obedience. It is peculiarly applicable at the present time to this City. Our geographical position and commercial importance would make this the spot upon which would be concentrated the boldest effort and most effective power at the command of an enemy. New-York, of all Atlantic ports, would be the object of attack by sea or land. Even during the late war with Great Britain, when our capture would have been of trifling comparative national consequence, we were the special object of British vengeance, which intended for us the attack which was afterward made upon Washington City. Indeed, it is difficult to conceive that any nation, with sufficient maritime force and military prowess to undertake our subjugation, would not make this City the great point to which would be directed a concentrated effort. Hence it is well to remember the advice of the "Father of his Country," and prepare for war in time of peace.

It is true that New-York has not been left unprotected. She is far from being entirely exposed. Nature, and the construction of many well-placed works, make her, even now, one of the strongholds of America. There is much error in the public mind regarding her present defences. She has already in position more guns of heavy calibre than Sebastopol had at the attack of the allied armies, or that Cronstadt has at this time. But yet there is more to be accomplished, necessary to a complete defence. Much remains to be done, in the way of protection and prevention from assault, by the erection of works of a peculiar character, and in certain positions. To this subject I have given some thought and investigation. Deeming it my duty, and contemplating an allusion to it in this communication, I have had recourse to the advice of experienced and skillful officers, whose knowledge of military affairs is entitled to the utmost confidence. Maj.-Gen. SANDFORD, whose intelligence and position give great weight to his suggestions, has furnished valuable memoranda, in which Lieut.-Gen. SCOTT fully concurs. In the judgment of these gentlemen, the approaches to the City of New-York by the Narrows or Long Island Sound, are capable of being thoroughly and successfully defended. Nature has done much for us, and the principal points of defence have been skillfully occupied by the Engineer Department of the General Government. The batteries at the Narrows, with the additional works erected at the southeast point of Staten Island at the period of the Oregon controversy, under the direction of that accomplished officer, Col. LEE, of the United States Engineers, could be speedily put in a condition to render that pass, if well manned, too hazardous for any force to attempt, especially when aided by such temporary floating batteries as we could fit up by the use of river steamers and other craft, strengthened with timber, and mounted with guns of large calibre.

Gen. SANDFORD thinks that, in addition to these defences at the Narrows, the entrance to the Lower Bay by the main and Gedney channels should be protected by a strong battery upon Flynn's Knoll, or the Southwest Spit; and the attention of the General Government should be drawn to this subject, as such a work cannot be constructed in time of war.

The admirable work at Throgg's Point, with such temporary batteries as could be erected at Hell Gate, with the natural difficulties of that pass, would prevent any approach in that direction; but the importance of having surveys and plans made under the direction of the United States Engineering Department is suggested, (whilst it can be done with due examination and deliberation,) and copies deposited here as well as at Washington of such temporary batteries at Hell Gate as would enable us to avail ourselves in the best manner of the local advantages of the pass. The most important point of our defences remain to be considered. In the event of a war with England, her immense marine of armed steamers and transports could concentrate at Bermuda and Halifax, and land upon the south side of Long Island a sufficient force to cross the Island and take possession of the heights opposite New-York in a few hours.

It is now a matter of history that this plan was actually matured by the British Government during the war of 1812, and would have been attempted but for the erection of the line of defences from Fort Green to Buttermilk Channel, under the direction of Gen. SWIFT, and the call of 25,000 of the militia of the State into service, under the orders of Gov. TOMPKINS. The force destined for this service afterwards attacked Washington and Baltimore, and subsequently was defeated by Gen. JACKSON at New-Orleans.

Our Revolutionary history also reminds us of the landing of the British army at Gravesend Bay, and of the unsuccessful resistance to their approach made by PUTNAM and Lord STIRLING, (who were in command during the sickness of Gen. GREENE,) in consequence of their want of knowledge of the topography of the country they were called on to defend.

But now the immense steam navy of England could enable her to land fifty thousand troops on Long Island with more ease and certainty than in 1814 she could land ten thousand. And the line of defences which we then threw up and occupied is now covered by the City of Brooklyn, and in case of any similar emergency we must occupy a more distant and consequently more extended line of circumvallation, embracing the hills between Brooklyn and Jamaica, and resting upon Fort Hamilton on the right, and Newtown Creek on the left.

Such a line requires careful, deliberate and skillful examination, and should, from its importance and extent, be protected by a few permanent works on its most conspicuous and commanding points, and with these advantages and the intermediate breastworks and temporary batteries, would enable our militia to resist with confidence the veterans of the Crimea as their ancestors did the veterans of the Peninsula.

It is therefore only necessary to provide the required exterior line of protection, and the batteries and other works referred to. So far as the *personnel* required for resistance is concerned, no city can surpass us in the necessary material from which to make soldiers. We boast, with sufficient grounds, of possessing some of the best disciplined militia corps in the Union, nor is it upon the regular militia companies alone that we would rely at the hour of need. Our almost countless target companies, fire companies, etc., made up of brave and noble men, who know not fear, and never shrink from duty, would present such an obstacle to the entrance of an enemy, that France and England would have good cause to hesitate before attacking.

It is with no vain boasting that I assert that no city has within itself a population which, at such a time, would evince a more military spirit, both as to obedience of orders and fearlessness of execution. It would rally to the defense of this Metropolis with successful force, and act as one man, regardless of sect, nativity, or party. New-York, when united, is irresistible, and, at such a time, no human power could divide it.

I again call the attention of the Common Council to this important matter, and ask their immediate application to the proper department of the General Government for the practical execution of these views. FERNANDO WOOD, Mayor.

A resolution was adopted extending the hospitality of the city to Col. JAMES A. MULLIGAN, and tendering to him the use of the Governor's room for the reception of his friends and the public.

The weekly statement of the Comptroller was received as follows:

Receipts during week ending Dec. 14	$293,610,42
Payments	$500,507,88
Balance in the treasury Dec. 14, including balance on hand Dec. 7	$3,773,841,89

The Board concurred in appropriating $30,000 to the Hebrew Benevolent Society one third only of which is to be used in the erection of the building.

After some routine business the Board adjourned to Thursday evening next.

DEPARTURE OF THE VERMONT CAVALRY.

A Rare Military Spectacle—Great Crowds of Spectators and Much Enthusiasm.

The first complete regiment of cavalry that has passed through the streets of New-York since the present war began, marched along Broadway to the Battery, yesterday, preparatory to its final departure for the scene of conflict. The First Regiment of Vermont Cavalry arrived in this City on Sunday, and on Monday morning notice of its organization, strength, appearance and efficiency was published in the NEW-YORK TIMES. At the same time, mention was made of the Colonel, LEMUEL B. PLATT, of Colchester, Chittenden County, Vt.

Lieut.-Col. GEORGE B. KELLOGG, next in command, is a well-known citizen and lawyer of Vermont, a resident of Brattelboro, which town he has twice represented in the Legislature, and is the eldest son of Hon. DANIEL KELLOGG, at one time a Judge of the Supreme Court of the State.

The following comprises a full list of the remaining Field and Staff officers, the vacancies remaining to be filled at Washington:

Senior Major, William D. Collins; Junior Major, John D. Bartlett; Adjutant, Edgar Pitkin; Quartermaster, A. S. Dewey; Surgeon, George S. Gale; Assistant Surgeon, P. O'Meara Edson; Chaplain, John H. Woodward.

The Non-commissioned Staff, in which there are several vacancies to be supplied, and as it at present stands, is as follows: Sergeant-Major, A. H. Danforth; Quartermaster's Sergeant, Chas. V. H. Sabin.

The *personnel* of the line officers is as follows, with the counties where recruited:

Co. B—recruited in Chittenden county—Captain, Frank A. Platt; First-Lieut., Joel B. Erhardt; Second-Lieut., Ellis B. Edwards. Co. B—recruited in Franklin county—Capt., George P. Conger; First-Lieut., William M. Boardman; Second-Lieut., Jed P. Clark. Co. C—recruited in Washington county—Capt., Wm. Wells; First-Lieut. Henry M. Paige. Second-Lieut, Eli Holden. Co. D—recruited in Orange county—Capt., Addison W. Preston; First-Lieut., John W. Bennett; Second-Lieut., William G. Cummings. Co. E, recruited in Winder County—Captain, Samuel P. Rundlett; First Lieutenant, Andrew J. Grover; Second Lieutenant. Co. H, recruited in Windham County—Captain, Josiah Hall; First Lieutenant, Robert Schofield; Second Lieutenant, Nathaniel Haywood. Co. G, recruited in Bennington County—Captain, James A. Sheldon; First Lieutenant, George H. Bean; Second Lieutenant, Dennis M. Blackmer. Co. H, recruited in Rutland County—Captain, Selah G. Perkins; First Lieutenant, Franklin T. Huntoon; Second Lieutenant, Charles A. Adams. Co. I, recruited from Lamoille and Orleans Counties—Captain, Edward B. Sawyer; First Lieutenant, Henry C. Flint; Second Lieutenant, Josiah Grout. Co. K, recruited in Addison County—Captain, Franklin Moore; First Lieutenant, John S. Ward; Second Lieutenant, John Williamson.

The regiment in its formation has had the active aid of many of the leading and substantial citizens of Vermont.

According to the programme, at 10 o'clock yesterday morning the regiment formed on Twenty-third-street, the right resting on Fourth-avenue, in the presence of an immense concourse which, at an early hour, had begun to assemble in the vicinity of their temporary headquarters.

The Sons of Vermont, marshalled by Gen. C. P. PEIK, and a deputation of the Sons of Massachusetts, who had met at Gramercy Park, took their places at the head of the line, preceded only by a detachment of police.

Not long after 10 the martial procession wheeled by Twenty-third-street into Fifth-avenue, and proceeding thence to Fourteenth-street, traversed the latter to Broadway, and thence to the Battery, where, between noon and 1 P. M., they were embarked on the boats of the New-Jersey Central Railroad for Jersey City. From that point they were to proceed to Elizabethport, and there take cars on their way to Washington.

Gov. FREDERICK HOLBROOK, surrounded by his Staff, consisting of Gen. H. Henry Baxter, Col. S. M. Waite, Col. B. B. Smalley, Col. R. W. Clarke, Major Francis Goodhugh, and Quartermaster-Gen. G. F. Davis, received the marching salute of the regiment, standing on the steps of the Astor House, as the troops swept by. Along the whole route of the march vast crowds manifested their curiosity and approbation, and at many points huge National flags, with patriotic mottoes, were displayed, and fair hands waved greeting and farewell to the Green Mountain boys.

Departure of the Fourth and Fifth Regiments, Irish Brigade.

The Fourth and Fifth Regiments, Irish Brigade, numerically designated by the State the Eighty-eighth and the Second Battalion New-York Volunteer Artillery, left Fort Schuyler yesterday, where they have been quartered for some time past, for the seat of war.

Landing at Thirty-fourth-street, the regiment marched to Fourteenth-street, thence to Broadway and Cortland, at the foot of which the ferry was taken for Jersey City, where cars were in readiness to convey it to Washington. Long before noon the sidewalks were thronged with people eager to give the gallant sons of Ireland a passing benediction. Shortly after 3 o'clock, the expectant multitude were gladdened with the sight of the green feathers and flashing bayonets of the men. Cheer after cheer was given as they passed, and many a fervent "God bless you" was uttered.

Acting Brig.-Gen. MEAGHER was mounted, and rode in advance of the regiments. On all sides he was greeted with cheers, and ladies in the balconies and windows of the different hotels waved an adieu with their snowy handkerchiefs.

The Eighty-eighth numbers nearly eight hundred men, all of whom are armed, uniformed, and equipped. The battalion of artillery numbers nearly four hundred, but as yet have no guns. Those weapons will be furnished upon its arrival at the Capital. Annexed is a list of the officers:

LIST OF OFFICERS OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH REGIMENT (FOURTH REGIMENT IRISH BRIGADE.)

Field and Staff—Colonel, HENRY M. BAKER; Lieutenant-Colonel, Patrick Kelly; Major, James Quinlan; Surgeon, Francis Reynolds; Assistant Surgeon, —— Powell; Chaplain, ——; Adjutant, Temple Emmett; Quartermaster, Patrick M. Haverty; Sergeant Major, John R. Young; Quartermaster Sergeant, Thomas Smith; Commissary Sergeant, John A. Grady; Drum Major, A. S. Whitlock.

LINE.—Co. A—Captain, John Smith; First Lieutenant, J. C. Hurley; Second do., Thomas Murphy. Co. B—Captain, S. McCarten; First Lieutenant, Michael J. Clarke; Second do., John J. Blake. Co. C—Captain, Joseph O'Donoghue; First Lieutenant, John O'Connell Joyce; Second do., Dennis F. Burke. Co. D—Captain, Patrick K. Horgan; First Lieutenant, John C. Foley; Second do., Patrick Ryder. Co. E—Captain, Patrick F. Clooney; First Lieutenant, Wm. McMahon O'Brien; Second do., John W. Byron. Co. F—Captain W. J. Nagle; First Lieutenant, Charles Donuvy; Second do., T. Murphy. Co. G—Captain, W. C. Hawkworth; First Lieutenant, Michael Egan, Second do., Michael Gallagher. Co. H—Captain, Wm. Horgan; First Lieutenant, W. F. Hackett; Second do., F. J. Hackett. Co. I—Captain, Maxwell O'Sullivan; First Lieutenant, Charles J. Clarke; Second do., Michael J. Holleban. Co. K—Wm. G. Hart: First Lieutenant, Maurice W. Wall: Second do., Timothy King.

LIST OF OFFICERS OF THE SECOND BATTALION NEW-YORK VOLUNTEER ARTILLERY, (FIFTH REGIMENT IRISH BRIGADE.)

Field and Staff.—Colonel, THOMAS FRANCIS MEAGHER; Lieutenant-Colonel, ——; First Major, Thomas O'Neill; Second Major, Richard W. Warrington; Surgeon, Edward McDonnell; Assistant Surgeon, C. O'Neill; Adjutant, Joseph McCoy; Quartermaster, Malache Martin; Lieutenant (Aide-Camp to the Acting-Brigadier,) Jas. B. Turner.

Line.—First Battery—Captain, Wm. H. Hogan; First Lieutenant, Thomas O'Shea; Second Lieutenant, Joseph P. Flynn. Second Battery—Captain, Henry J. McMahon; First Lieutenant, Michael J. McGowan. Third Battery—Captain, Michael Mitchell; First Lieutenant, Henry Fox; Second Lieutenant, Martin Delany. Fourth Battery—Captain, William O'Donoghue; First Lieutenant, John Daly; Second Lieutenant, Jas. McKay Rorty.

There are four other batteries in process of formation, of which the Captains and Lieutents are Donovan, McMahon, Butler, Phelan, Laupe, Doheny and O'Donnell.

FROM THE PACIFIC COAST.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAMSHIP CHAMPION.

$979,000 IN TREASURE.

Pursuit of the Champion by a Three-Masted Propeller.

NEWS FROM SOUTH AMERICA.

The War in the Argentine Confederation.

Defeat of Urquiza by the Buenos Ayrean Forces.

The steamship *Champion*, WILSON, from Aspinwall, Dec. 7, with mails, passengers and specie from California, arrived last night.

On the 14th, in lat. 31° 30', long. 74°, she was chased by a three-masted propeller, square-rigged on the foremast. She carried three large skysails, a fore-staysail and jib, and appeared to have a round stern. The smoke-stack was between the main and mizzen masts. She had two large boats, painted white, hanging to the davits amidships. To all appearance she was an iron vessel, newly painted,—the bottom painted a very bright red. After an hour's chase she hoisted the English flag, of which no notice was taken.

The news from New-Granada is interesting. The troubles with the clergy still continued, and MOSQUERA, as the shortest mode in which to end them, had issued an order of banishment against the monks. Small skirmishes had taken place in the insurgent States, but no battle of importance, and the prospect was that all opposition to MOSQUERA would soon cease.

The following is the *Champion's* specie list:

FROM ASPINWALL.

Cartwright & Harrison	$1,200	Ribon & Munoz	$2,890
Legrati & Leoni	405	Freeman & Co	207
Wells, Fargo & Co	2,235	Strout & Bro	400
Colgate & Hoffman	882	Order	600
Total			$8,821

FROM SAN FRANCISCO.

Robert Morris	$16,000	W. T. Coleman & Co.	12,400
P. Naylor	10,000	Lawrence, Giles & Co.	14,300
A. E. & C. E. Tilton	3,500	A. E. Hetchet	9,000
J. H. Coghill	8,000	Wm. Seligman & Co	43,000
Dewitt, Kittle & Co	20,200